

BURMA VALLEY BRANCH

Indian Tea Association

ANNUAL REPORT **OF THE** **GENERAL COMMITTEE**

For the year ending 30th June 1930.

**Including a list of tea estates, members of the
Association, corrected to 31st August 1930.**

**With Proceedings of the Annual General Meeting
held on 3rd March 1930.**

Calcutta :

**PRINTED AT THE STAR PRINTING WORKS,
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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE SURMA VALLEY BRANCH, INDIAN TEA
ASSOCIATION, held at the Amusement Club,
Silchar, on Monday, the 3rd March 1930.

PRESENT:

MR. A. F. STUART, <i>Chairman</i> ,	MR. W. E. MACKENZIE HILL.
„ C. N. W. GRIMSHAW,	„ B. CHADBURN.
<i>Vice-Chairman</i> ,	„ B. M. GUPTA.
„ G. E. RAYNER, M.L.C.	„ T. A. EVERARD.
„ A. G. MORRIS.	„ P. S. DOUBELL.
„ F. J. HEATHCOTE.	„ H. L. BIGGE.
„ C. A. WILLIAMS.	„ H. HUGHES.
„ S. G. MACBEY.	„ H. F. CLARK.
„ V. G. EVERY.	„ T. V. HIMSWORTH.
„ T. E. HOLBROOK.	„ N. MACKENZIE.
„ A. MCCREATH.	„ R. R. DEUCHARS.
„ W. LAWIE.	„ B. GUPTA.
„ J. D. JENKINS.	„ J. HENDERSON.
„ H. EMBLEN.	„ M. T. BEATIS.
„ F. M. ANDERSON.	„ H. E. P. GILL.
„ A. B. BEDDOW.	„ R. SEN GUPTA.
„ S. A. PEARSON.	„ J. A. ROGERSON.
„ H. G. WEBB.	„ C. H. BLACKER.
„ N. H. N. MACLEOD.	„ W. P. ARCHIBALD.
„ G. T. RING.	„ T. W. SHEPPARD.
„ J. S. MERCER.	„ O. F. HAMILTON.
„ ALLAN MACKENZIE.	„ GEO. S. GALL.
„ H. E. BENNETT.	„ G. G. HILLS.

MR. H. S. TOOTH.	MR. A. F. BENDALL.
.. V. KNOTT.	.. H. BLAKE.
.. W. K. GREEN.	.. P. TRINKLE.
.. WM. J. GRAY.	.. A. SHAND.
.. N. D. LUCKMAN.	.. G. W. BOYACK.
.. J. W. MOSLEY.	.. G. B. ABBOTT.
.. L. F. RAE.	.. A. B. MARTIN.
.. A. K. MURARY.	.. W. E. LEGGE.
.. C. E. EWING.	.. F. B. ALDER.
.. J. KIRKUP.	.. H. T. STREET.
.. GEO. GRAY.	.. F. W. WILSON.
.. A. BROWN.	.. W. P. H. HADLEY.
.. A. P. LENNOX.	.. C. HINCHCLIFFE.
.. J. R. THOMSON.	.. W. G. GOODY.
.. W. D. S. REID.	.. D. BROWN.
.. L. MCHARDY.	.. J. K. CULLINAN.
.. E. T. GEER.	.. R. H. HOSSACK.
.. W. R. H. PEATTIE.	.. A. MACKENZIE.
.. ROBT. M. PATERSON.	.. J. A. S. REID.
.. D. PATERSON.	.. C. W. MORLEY.
.. F. W. CARPENTER.	.. A. H. GREATREX.
.. J. MACKNIGHT.	.. T. EDMOND.
.. JAS. WATSON.	.. J. W. MCKAY.
.. H. M. GIRLING.	.. T. A. COWIE.
.. P. MCIVER.	.. J. SCOTT RAE.
.. H. A. WRAY.	.. J. L. MCINTOSH.
.. W. SARGEANT.	.. M. STRACHAN.
	.. C. R. SHILLINGFORD.

MR. W. E. D. COOPER, (*Secretary*).

Visitors.

The following gentlemen attended the Meeting by the invitation of the Committee:—

REV. W. H. S. WOOD.

.. T. W. REESE.

MR. J. HEZLETT, C.I.E., I.C.S., Commissioner, Surma Valley and Hill Division.

.. G. D. WALKER, M.B.E., I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner, Cachar.

- MR. P. H. CARPENTER, Chief Scientific Officer, Tecklai.
„ E. S. ROFFEY, M.L.C., Secretary, Assam Branch, Indian
Tea Association.
„ R. L. BLISS, Agent, Assam-Bengal Railway.
„ C. BAKER, Traffic Manager, Assam-Bengal Railway.
„ T. C. DAS, District Traffic Superintendent, Badarpur.
„ A. MCKIE, Joint Agent, I. G. & R. S. N. Co., Fenchuganj
„ W. R. FAULL, c/o Messrs. Macneill & Co., Calcutta.
„ M. W. WATHEN, Badarpur, B. O. C.
„ J. W. TROTMAN.
„ N. S. MUNDY.
DR. W. J. DAVIS.
„ G. D. MADHOK.
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Letters were received from the following gentlemen regretting
their inability to attend the Meeting :—

- MR. J. A. MILLIGAN, I.C.S., Superintendent, Tea Districts
Labour Association.
LIEUT.-COLONEL J. W. MCCOY, Civil Surgeon, Sylhet.
MR. J. A. DAWSON, I.C.S.
COLONEL A. J. M. MACLAUGHLIN.
MR. H. M. PRICHARD, I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet.
The Sub-Divisional Officer, Harlakandi.
„ „ „ North Cachar Hills.
„ „ „ South Sylhet.
MR. A. R. LEISHMAN, President, Chittagong Chamber of
Commerce.
DR. D. GIBSON.
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MR. A. F. STUART, having taken the Chair, the Secretary read
the notice convening the Meeting.

The Chairman then addressed the Meeting as follows :—

GENTLEMEN,

Before referring to the Report and Accounts I should like to
take the opportunity of extending on behalf of the Surma Valley
Branch, Indian Tea Association, a cordial welcome to our visitors,

and to express our thanks that so many have found it possible to attend our Annual Meeting. It is always a pleasure to meet the Government officials and our associates in business, and on this occasion we are particularly fortunate in having present to-day our Commissioner and Mr. Roffey, Secretary of the Assam Branch.

This is the 19th anniversary of this Association and during its existence there have been many occasions when market conditions have been depressed, but I venture to believe I am correct in saying the financial outlook, so far as the Surma Valley is concerned, has never been worse than at present. The cause is readily determined, over production —by all producing countries, the London stocks of surplus tea having now risen to nearly 50,000,000 lbs., and the average price realised for the past season's low and medium grades down to as much as 5*d.* per pound below the corresponding value of a year ago. To overcome this disastrous position is a problem of difficult solution.

As many of you are aware a scheme of Crop Restriction is exercising the ingenuity of London, Calcutta and affiliated Associations, but the devising of a practical plan acceptable to all producers bristles with difficulties, so far as your Committee are aware, no definite line of action has, as yet, been arrived at. It is felt unless Russia re-enters the market, or until such time as demand exceeds supplies, the only lasting cure, we cannot look for prosperous times as prices must continue to rule below the cost of production.

The Royal Commission on Labour gave your Committee food for thought and an immense amount of work throughout the year.

Last year we were presented with a paper embodying the Terms of Reference of what is commonly known as the Whitley Commission, *viz.* To enquire into and report on the existing conditions of Labour in industrial undertakings and plantations in British India on the health efficiency and standard of living of the workers, and on the relations between employers and employed and to make recommendations.

This document consisted of 18 headings comprising no less than 132 intricate questions relative to the Tea Industry, and at a Conference on the subject held in Calcutta last July, representatives

of the Indian Tea Associations felt strongly that the evidence given to the Commission should be uniform, and free from diversity of opinion.

The Branch was represented at the Conference by your Chairman, Mr. Rayner and Mr. Beddow. In September a second conference was held to discuss and approve of the memorandum which was subsequently submitted by the Indian Tea Association—a document consisting of 22 pages of printed matter dealing comprehensively with the various subjects. The Branch delegates on this occasion were Mr. Rayner, Mr. McCreath and myself. On the 3rd January last, the advent of the Commission to the Tea Districts was welcomed by representatives of the Surma Valley who accompanied them on their tour of inspection of various Estates, and subsequently I had the honour in conjunction with Mr. Rayner, Mr. Gupta and Dr. Ramsay of giving oral evidence. Your Branch pride themselves the Commission departed favourably impressed with the conditions of Tea garden labour, and it is sincerely to be hoped that in due course their findings may be such as to help those engaged in the Industry to obtain greater freedom in recruitment of Labour.

To pass from this subject without tendering my sincere thanks for the great assistance received from many members of the Branch in the compilation of facts and figures, would be discourteous. It would be invidious to mention names, but when a "lady's in the case":—"all other things must give place" and I take this opportunity on behalf of this Branch, as also that of Assam, of thanking Mrs. Clarke for the amount of clerical work she enacted on behalf of the industry in recording the oral evidence.

When I had the privilege of addressing you last year, the impression was conveyed, we were within measurable distance of obtaining a Bill to amend Act VI. Hardly had this pronouncement been made when we were informed that the revision of Act VI had been postponed in view of the Royal Commission on Labour. As it embodied in its reference "Recruitment of Labour"—one of the specific points for investigation, it was hardly possible under the circumstances for the Government of India to proceed with proposals for legislation. It is understood the Commission will again visit India next cold weather and having regard to the wide scope

of reference some considerable time must elapse before their findings and recommendations will be disclosed in their report. Until then we must exercise patience, and continue to bear the infliction of an obsolete Act which we maintain makes recruiting costly, and tampers with the free movement of Labour.

Political Protection.—This idea emanated from London, was agreed to by Calcutta and matured in Assam. I do not propose to expound the fundamental objects, but reference to it is actuated by the desire to introduce Mr. Roffey, who has accepted the appointment. Mr. Roffey, as many of you are probably aware, has been practising as a solicitor in Assam for over a quarter of a century, has been Secretary of the Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association, for many years and has also represented the Industry on the Legislative Assembly and Assam Council. He commands the confidence of Europeans and Indians at Council Meetings, and his Association with the Bar endows him with eloquence in his speeches.

These factors and continuity of service carry with them cumulative and valuable experience, an important asset to the Industry, and I think we are extremely fortunate in having secured Mr. Roffey's services in these critical times. As I feel Mr. Roffey will wish to address you personally as regards his position, I will not pursue this subject further, but nevertheless the financial aspect in connection with Political work cannot be lost sight of, and to meet the Branch's liabilities your Committee, with Calcutta's approval, have reluctantly had to enhance the rate of subscription to 2½ annas per acre of tea under cultivation.

Labour Rules.—During the past year the question of abolishing or revising the Brahmaputra and Surma Valley Labour Rules came up for discussion at the Labour Conference in Calcutta previously referred to. The upshot of the discussion was that the Rules should be revised, and subsequently both Branches were asked to submit amended Rules. Your Committee formed a Sub-Committee consisting of Messrs. McCreath, Beddow, Heathcote, MacBey and myself, but our draft revision was no more acceptable to the Assam Branch than that submitted by the other Branch.

from duplicity and meanness of those, who would, if permitted, supplement their labour forces at the depletion of others.

Floods.—Gentlemen, in the room in which you are sitting there was, during the floods of June last three feet of water. You can attempt to visualise the appearance Silchar, and the surrounding country presented; suffice it to say, all communications were completely disorganised, and we were cut off from the outer world for several days. An apprehension of shortage in food supplies called for action by your Committee, but some time elapsed before it was possible to get in touch with Calcutta, who, however, on receipt of our telegrams took immediate action, and our thanks are due to them, and the River Steam Companies for the rapidity in which Rice and other necessities of life were sent forward.

We heard at the time a great out-cry about the distress caused in the neighbouring villages, but little reference has been made to Tea Estates, especially in the Hailakandi district, where they suffered very severely. Several hundred acres of tea have had to be abandoned entirely, and the loss on last season's crop may be computed at a conservative figure to be 30,000 maunds of Tea.

To those Managers who were hit so badly we extend our sympathy, and as it appears to many experienced planters that floods are becoming not only of more frequent occurrence but of greater severity, I am pleased to inform you, the Government of Assam have responded to the Association's request and have constituted a Committee of enquiry. We shall await their findings with interest, but gentlemen, my own personal opinion is that no engineering body in the world could, or ever, will be able to control the abnormal volume of water such as was experienced last June.

Your Association feel strongly however that some facilities such as a wireless station in Silchar, and a motor boat to assist the Police in the execution of their duty would contribute greatly to relieve anxiety, and expedite rescue work in the event of a recurrence. We solicit the Government's favourable consideration to these points. We hope the Assam-Bengal Railway appreciate the fact that the Silchar godown is well under flood level, and that some steps will have to be taken to raise it. Occasional flooding in the future is not improbable, but shippers will not and cannot be expected to attribute their loss to an "Act of God" when consignments of tea are in the

Railway godown unless the Almighty ordains the high water mark of last year is to be exceeded.

The Agent of the Line who has honoured us with a visit to-day, may be able to give us his assurance some action will be taken. I congratulate him and his staff on the rapidly with which they re-establish communications under phenomenal and very trying conditions.

Road Board.—The wheels of the Road Board continue to grind slowly but there is something to be said in mitigation of its inactivities as the programme of the Board has been subjected to drastic reduction, due to the devastating floods of June last, and many works on the main road system have had to be postponed on account of cost.

The new road from Ratabari to Monacherra, the principal artery between Cachar and Sylhet, and which was sanctioned by the Board last year, has been deleted from the programme but this project has not been lost sight of, and is, I understand, to be brought up again at the next Road Board Meeting.

The Sylhet-Jantiapur, Sylhet-Companyganj, Kulaura-Brahmanbazar, Lalabazar and Katlicherra, Banskandi-Lakhipur roads are in process of metalling, and in addition $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles at Shaistaganj and approximately two miles in the Silchar Municipality at an estimated cost of six lakhs.

Embodied in the programme is the bridging and widening of the Kulaura-Juri, Juri-Phultola, Sylhet-Sherpur, Poamara Bridge, Nilambazar, and other roads at an estimated cost of approximately 20 lakhs.

I would again impress on you that this Road Board programme is financed by Government, and is in no way connected with the Tea Rates Road Fund Board, the revenue of which goes to the improvement of roads in Tea Districts. The current programme of the Tea Rates Road Fund Board is for a bridge over the Monoo river at an estimated cost of one lakh and nine thousand rupees, but as the revenue received amounts to approximately only Rs. 65,000 per annum, no rapid progress need be anticipated, but a continuity of policy will in due course benefit the Industry.

Factory Act.--During the preparation of evidence for the Whitley Commission we came in contact with some Managers who were far from conversant with the Factory Act.

Gentlemen, ignorance of the law excuses no man. The law at present is easily adhered to, but inadvertence towards it, if resulting in convictions may have the tendency of lightening the strings of the existing Act. I merely mention this as there were four prosecutions against Managers last year, two for employing children without medical certificates, one for employing children below the legal age, and one for not maintaining a register.

There are 176 Tea Factories in the Surma Valley employing 12,267 hands and the accidents during the year only amount to 1 fatal, 2 serious and 2 minor, a creditable record, but nevertheless I appeal to all to see that their factories are in order to meet the increasing attention we are likely to receive from the Factory Inspector in the future.

Tea Planters' Benevolent Fund.--I thank Chairmen of District Committees for collecting subscriptions towards this deserving institution, and to all those who generously subscribed, but frankly I was disappointed with the amount realised which fell short of the previous year by Rs. 438/-. The impropriety of giving a detailed list of the Institutions commitments must be obvious to you all, but there are some sixteen beneficiaries including thirteen ladies who obtain assistance ranging from Rs. 50/- to £10 per mensem. Even the maximum is not a great deal per annum, and to assist those less fortunate than ourselves, I again appeal to Chairmen of District Committees to give the Institution assistance by opening a subscription list in the near future.

Tea Cess.--Messrs. Pearson and Heathcote have been nominated to represent the Branch on the Indian Tea Cess Committee, and they are to raise at the first available opportunity the question of exploiting with greater determination, India as a market. The difficulty of obtaining a good drinking Tea say in the Punjab or the Bombay side, is well known to many of us, and we think a more vigorous campaign might be waged to promote sales in this country.

Assam Labour Board. In our evidence before the Whitley Commission we gave it as our opinion this Board had outlived its

purpose, and might be dispensed with. As you will understand no action can possibly be taken pending the findings of the Commission and in the meantime Messrs. Emblen, Heathcote and Pearson have kindly consented to represent our Association.

The Tea Districts Labour Association has Mr. Rayner and myself, and your representatives on the Assam Legislative Council were last year Messrs. McCreath and Rayner, but as both these gentlemen are proceeding at an early date on a well-earned holiday, their seats will be filled by Messrs. James and Cooper.

Legislative Assembly.—Mr. Chalmers, who has given us his services on the Legislative Assembly, as representative of the European Community in Assam, recently resigned, and I should like to place on record this Branch's appreciation and thanks for the work and time he has devoted in our interests. I feel confident you will unanimously support my proposal of instructing our Secretary to write Mr. Chalmers expressing our appreciation.

There is always difficulty in finding a suitable man to fill the seat in the Assembly, but the Assam and Surma Valley Branches are in unison in endeavouring to secure the services of Mr. H. B. Fox, C.I.E. A private correspondence from Mr. Fox indicates some hope of acquiring his matured experience, and it is hoped when we all meet in Calcutta towards the end of this week that a definite proposal will be made to him.

You gentlemen, who have not experienced the privilege of these honorary appointments, have little conception of the work they entail, but I feel sure you will join with me in recording our appreciation and thanks for the amount of work these gentlemen put in on behalf of our Branch.

Financial position and Membership of the Association.—A statement of accounts for the year ending 31st December 1929, which has already been circulated, and the Annual Report of the Branch for the year ending 30th June 1929, which are now being distributed to all members present, showed that the subscriptions for the year amounted to Rs. 11,252/- including the office allowance of Rs. 1,200/- received from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta. The total receipts for the year were Rs. 18,551/- and expenditure amounted to Rs. 16,485/-. The accounts for the year were closed

with a cash balance of Rs. 2,066/- in hand. There was only one outstanding subscription due at the end of the year.

The Association now represents 160 Estates with an acreage of 14,818 acres, as against 134,102½ acres for the previous year. There is no complete record of the area abandoned this year, as subscriptions are now being collected and the acreage revised—some Agencies have increased their acreage—one Estate has been abandoned altogether and several gardens in Hailakandi have reduced their acreage. No new gardens have joined the Association.

We all welcome Mr. Cooper's return, and his having resumed the duties of Secretary. He selected a good year to go on leave from his point of view, as the Branch have had more than the usual amount of work to contend with, but the Officiating Secretary, Mr. Gall, proved capable of dealing with it and to him I extend on behalf of the Committee and members of the Surma Valley Branch our sincere thanks and high appreciation of his work, especially in connection with the Royal Commission on Labour.

Mr. E. S. Roffey, M.L.C., Secretary, Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association, rising said :—

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I must first thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your kind remarks with reference to myself. I have been asked to address you with regard to my new appointment. It consists of two parts, namely—the whole-time Secretaryship of the Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association and the Secretaryship of the Planting group on the Assam Legislative Council. In connection with both, opinions have been expressed by the London and Calcutta Associations that my duties should not be amalgamated with the work of the European Association. Mr. Chalmers, President, Assam Branch, European Association, has recently suggested that I should either be elected an Honorary, or Co-opted Member, of the General Committee and of all local Committees of the Assam Branch, European Association. The General Committee, Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association, on Saturday last, and your General Committee to-day considered the matter and both are of opinion it would be of advantage to both the Branches of the Indian Tea Association, and the European

Association, if Mr. Chalmers's first suggestion is adopted. There is to be a Conference with the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta and Branch Associations, in Calcutta on the 8th instant, and the proposal will be placed before the former Association for approval. In any case it will be sometimes difficult to tell when my duties for the Industry end, and the work of the European Association commences, as for example, the supervision of the Electoral Rolls. This work I have undertaken at the suggestion of your Secretary. Strictly speaking, it probably falls within the Province of the European Association but, inasmuch as it directly relates to the Legislative Assembly and the Assam Legislative Council, I think it may be considered as falling within my Political duties. The great point is that I am willing to help the Industry, and you all with regard to any matters in which your Secretary desires my assistance. Speaking generally, this Branch is mostly interested in the second portion of my appointment, namely, in connection with my work on the Assam Legislative Council, but there are many matters common to both Branches in which I hope I shall be able to help you—that portion of my work which I may term "Political," will include bringing to the notice of Government, or the Legislative Council, all matters requested by your Branch, and the perusal of all Bills, Resolutions, and Motions brought before the Council. In this connection, I should like to bring to your notice the provisions of the Child Marriage Restraint Act 1928, in respect of which, I have been requested by the General Committee, Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association, to ascertain the views of the Local Government with reference to coolie marriages. Mr. Rolley read to the Meeting a summary of the Sections of this Act. In the list of Resolutions to be moved in the Council this month are two relating to this Valley, the first recommending that the Gabundganj-Sunamganj portion of the Sylhet-Sunamganj road be restored to the immediate programme of the Road Board projects, and the second, that protective measures be immediately undertaken for the prevention of erosion of the town of Sunamganj by the river Surma. As I have said, I have undertaken the supervision of the Electoral Rolls and have this morning discussed this question with your General Committee. This is by no means an easy matter owing to the existing election rules, but I hope to discuss it with the Authorities and to arrive at some workable scheme at a later date. There appears to be some

degree of misunderstanding with regard to the Constituencies for which you can vote, and your qualifications therefor, and I have therefore prepared a note on the subject with reference to the Council of State, the Legislative Assembly, and the Assam Legislative Council. Mr. Roffey read to the meeting the names of the Assam Constituencies and the qualification of Electors relating to Europeans and Tea Planters therefor in the abovementioned Houses. To date there have been no elections for the Tea Planting Seats on the Assam Legislative Council, and therefore no necessity for you to use your votes for this constituency. In connection with all Non-Muhammedan Rural Constituencies, you can and should not only vote, but use your influence and canvas among your employees and neighbours in support of candidates representing the Assam Moderate Party. I presume my future duties may also entail visits to Calcutta and Shillong at the request of the Indian Tea Association, or the Branches, in order to obtain opinions on, and discuss matters affecting the industry. I may mention that since the last Session of the Assam Legislative Council I have been elected a Member of 1) the Finance Committee of the Council, 2) the Select Committee of the Assam Audit Bill, which is an important Bill surcharging Officers of Local Bodies in respect of losses incurred through their illegal action, 3) the Committee appointed to revise the Jail Rules of the Province, 4) the Committee appointed to revise the Standing Orders of Council, 5) the Pasteur Institute Committee and 6) the Assam Branch of the Lady Minto's Indian Nursing Association. I may add that I am quite willing to represent your Branch on any Committees on which you may find it difficult to obtain representatives.

I have now dealt with my Political duties and will refer to particulars of a few matters, which are common to both Branches, and which, in the course of my recent work, I have ascertained. For some time I have been anxious to obtain the number and acreage of Indian Tea Concerns in the Province. Thanks to the kindness of Rai Bahadur Radhanath Phukan, the Director of Agriculture, I have recently obtained a list of such Concerns with a view to endeavouring to induce them to become Members of the Branches. From this list it appears there are 231 Indian Tea Concerns in the Province, having a total area of 219,362 acres, and a planted area of 44,276 acres. Of these 231 concerns, 174 with a total area of 145,340 acres and a planted area of 28,891 acres are in

the Assam Valley, and 60 concerns with a total area of 101,022 acres, and a planted area of 15,385 acres are in the Surma Valley. Of these 60 concerns in the Surma Valley, 12 with a total area of 12,265 acres, and a planted area of 2,318 acres are in the Cachar District and 48 with a total area of 91,756 acres and a planted area of 13,067 acres are in the Sylhet District. The average planted area of the 174 concerns in the Assam Valley amounts to 166 acres, and of 60 concerns in the Surma Valley to 256 acres. These are, I think you will agree, most interesting figures, of which up to a short time since we were ignorant. I need only add that, in my opinion, it will be of great advantage to the Industry if we can induce these Concerns to become Members of our Branches, so that we can deal with local problems affecting the Industry as a united body.

Your Chairman has referred to the Labour Rules Agreement. You are all aware to what extent this Agreement has been objected to by those outside the Industry on the ground it places some restriction on the free movement of labour. In the course of my enquiries made prior to the arrival of the Royal Commission on Labour, I discovered that the original idea of an Agreement of this nature came from the Assam Labour Enquiry Committee of 1906, who, in recommending an Enticement Act, stated, that this recommendation would not have been made if there had been any possibility of the matter being arranged by agreement amongst the planters themselves. Their actual words were:—"In the Duars this is secured by voluntary agreement amongst employers, and the ideal would be to see a similar arrangement come to in Assam. From what the Committee can learn, however, there seems no prospect of any effective voluntary agreement being adopted." The question of a Labour Rules Agreement was, in consequence of this Committee's Report, taken up in 1908 and the first agreement was signed in 1910. I was able to place these facts before the Royal Commission in my evidence as one of the representatives of the Assam Branch, and I trust it will have the effect of stopping any further irresponsible criticisms on the need for any such agreement.

Another matter which is of interest to both Branches is that of "absenteeism." The Labour Enquiry Commission of 1922 definitely found they did not agree with the Industry's witnesses that higher pay to labourers did not increase their work. The Royal Com-

mission were also sceptical on the subject, and the Assam Branch have been asked to bring up to date from Government Immigration Reports the absenteeism tables published in the Report of the Labour Enquiry Committee of 1922. This I have done and at the same time have prepared graphs of, not only the absenteeism, but the rise in wages for the years 1923, 1926 and 1929, which prove conclusively that the Industry is correct in their statement that higher wages do not mean more work. It has been pointed out to me that the months of March and September taken in the Government Returns are not representative months of absenteeism at any rate in the Assam Valley, and I am therefore obtaining absenteeism figures for every month of the year from representative gardens, and I am asking your Secretary to be good enough to send me these figures in respect of this Valley.

Finally I should like to draw your attention to the fact that from the Immigration Reports of 1922 to 1929 it appears that, during those 8 years, in the Assam Valley there were only 7 complaints by labourers of the use of force against them by Managers, some of which were found to be false. In this Valley there were only 2 such cases. These are remarkable facts in favour of Managers controlling a labour force of upward of a million in the Province.

In conclusion I should like to tell you what a great pleasure it has been to me to be able to meet and address you to-day, and I hope I may be able to do so on future occasions.

Mr. J. Hezlett, C.I.E., I.C.S., Commissioner of the Surma Valley and Hill Division, rising, thanked the Chairman and members for an invitation to the General Meeting, on behalf of all Government officials who were glad of the opportunity of hearing the considered views of the Branch on various matters. He referred to the June Floods and the Royal Commission as the two outstanding features of the year—promised to bring to the notice of Government the question of launches and a wireless station referred to by the Chairman, as a possible means of alleviating conditions at the time of floods. He congratulated the Branch on the excellent arrangements they made for showing the Royal Commission on Labour conditions under which labour on tea gardens lived and worked. In referring to the slump in tea, he pointed out that one-fifth of the

population of the world live in India and he was sure a good deal more could be done to dispose of the surplus crop without taking it out of the country. Further reference was made to the Sarda Act as affecting the tea garden population, and to the Road Board programme, where he was in favour of a policy of spending less on metalling certain sections of road at a very high cost, and more on opening up and bridging the main road system.

Mr. R. L. Bliss, Agent of the Assam-Bengal Railway, rising, thanked the Chairman and members for invitation to Railway officials to attend the Meeting, and to the kind remarks made by the Chairman with reference to re-establishing communications after the flood. He promised to look into the question of raising the height of the Godown, and referred to financial stringency due to floods, and other causes affecting the Railway Company at the present time.

Mr. C. Baker, Traffic Manager, touched on the question of delay in receipt of parcels from Calcutta, and gave reasons why an improvement might be expected next month.

Mr. P. H. Carpenter, Chief Scientific Officer, rising said :—

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

The present position of the tea market requires good quality rather than quantity. Tea is mainly valued by the liquor that is obtained from a 5-minute infusion. The 5-minute infusion dissolves from the tea leaves certain substances, of which tannin and caffeine are of importance in determining the value of the tea; also the total amount of matter that is extracted appears to be of importance. The following figures indicate what I mean :—

Grade.	Price.	Tannin.	Caffein.	Total extractable solids.
	Rs. A P.			
B. P. ...	1 0 0	5.13	1.83	20.03
B. P. ...	0 11 6	4.29	1.39	17.4
B. O. P. ...	0 12 0	3.85	2.14	23.84
B. O. P. ...	1 8 6	5.35	1.95	23.82
B. O. P. ...	3 0 0	4.83	2.06	26.30

It is necessary therefore to consider how the characteristic of the infusion can be altered, and a first consideration must be given to the leaf as it is grown on the garden. The average tannin content of the leaf varies from year to year, for instance in 1921 the average tannin content was 22% and in 1922 was 24%. It also varies throughout any one year. At the beginning of the season the tannin content is low and gradually rises to a maximum and falls again at the end of the season.

Tannin content of a first leaf.

	Tannin per cent.		
16th May	16.5
30th June	16.68
25th August	27.33
22nd September	29.46
27th October	24.0
24th November	26.17

Climate.—Variations due to climatic conditions are outside our control, and every year is not a vintage year, but the variation seems to be insufficient to prevent good tea being made every year. There are other factors that affect the composition of the leaf plucked and which are controllable.

Pruning.—Pruning can have a very considerable effect and it may be generally stated that the best leaf is plucked from long old wood and short new wood.

The short length of old wood and a long length of new wood lowers the tannin content in the plucked leaf.

This is indicated by the following figures.

	Tannin per cent		
Unpruned tea	24.16
Medium pruned tea	23.65
Heavy pruned tea	22.67

When it is necessary to produce good quality leaf cutting back or heavy pruning tea should be reduced to a minimum.

Plucking.—Whilst plucking cannot affect the composition of the growing leaf yet manner of plucking can materially affect the

quality of the bulk of leaf that is taken to the factory. The tannin percentage varies in the different parts of the shoot plucked, for instance—

Tannin %			
Bud	...	28	14%
1st leaf	...	28	21%
2nd „	...	21	38%
3rd „	...	18	...
4th „	...	14	...
Upper stalk	...	12	27%
<hr/>			
Lower stalk	...	6	100%
Old leaves	...	11	

The analyses of the shoot plucked is as follows:—

Bud	...	...	14
1st leaf	...	...	21
2nd leaf	...	...	38
Stalk	...	...	27
<hr/>			
100			

Taking these two sets of figures into consideration the effect of coarse plucking in lowering the quality of the bulk of the leaf becomes very evident. If good quality tea is to be made fine plucking is necessary, that is to say, plucking two leaves and a bud; and it is perhaps as well if I define a bud. So soon as a bud is opened so that it is flat it can then no longer be considered as a bud must be judged as a leaf as it is then performing all the functions of a leaf. This eliminates from consideration such terms as unopened bud. By fine plucking I mean 2 opened leaves and one rolled bud. It is of course impossible on a garden to obtain plucking that consists wholly of two leaves and a bud. The following plucking figures obtained at Tocklai indicate what may be obtained under strict plucking conditions.

2 bud	...	11 soft banjhi	68%	77%
3 bud	...	...	22%	17%
Hard banjhi	...	...	10%	6%

This strictness of plucking is perhaps rather more than can be obtained under ordinary garden conditions, but I suggest that a garden can pluck leaf of such strictness that 60% of 2 leaves and a bud and 1 soft banjhi can be brought to the factory. It has however been noted that garden leaf sometimes contains only 40% of 2 and a bud and a soft banjhi.

Banjhi leaf contains a low percentage of tannin for instance,

		Tannin %	Tannin %
Non-banjhi	...	13.02	23.72
Banjhi shoots	...	10.37	16.06

Leaves that are diseased may also have their tannin content very much lowered, for instance,

		Tannin %	Tannin %
Diseased	...	13	6.0
Non-diseased	...	18.2	20.8

Taking all these figures into consideration it becomes evident that the best leaf can be obtained from good healthy vigorous tea that is high-pruned on a short length of new wood and close plucked strictly to 2 leaves and a bud.

Manuring.—So far there appears to be little or no evidence to show that proper manuring lowers the quality of the shoot plucked. In fact by stimulating and strengthening a bush so that it is better able to resist disease attack and less liable to grow banjhi, manuring should tend to improve the quality of the leaf plucked. On the other hand there is a certain amount of evidence to show that leaf manured with large quantities of nitrogen only may produce shoots of a lower tannin content. Manuring therefore I think can be safely done but it must be done properly.

We have no evidence to show that the soil on which the tea is growing affect the quality of the tea made, and for the present I think we can dismiss this factor from consideration.

We have considered one or two of the factors that can affect the tannin percentage in the shoot as it comes to the factory.

I will now deal with the leaf after it reaches the factory.

Withering.—The first process is withering and as a practical standard for the planters of North East India, I think, we may say that for a good wither 100 lbs. of fresh leaf must be dried to 65 lbs. This can be done in two ways. It can be dried quickly or it can be dried slowly. If it is dried quickly the shoot withers in an uneven manner whereas if dried slowly it withers much more evenly.

To give you two extreme cases as an example:—

		Fresh,	2 hours,	24 hours,
Bud	...	78.3	71.1	65.2
1st leaf	...	76.3	60.6	64.0
2nd leaf	...	76.2	53.8	65.8
Stalk	...	84.7	79.2	73.0
		<u>79.4</u>	<u>67.8</u>	<u>67.3</u>

It will be noted that the wither as judged by the weight in both cases would be regarded as the same, but the unevenness of the quick wither is clearly brought out by the above figures. It is of importance that leaf shall be evenly withered and consequently a slow wither is necessary.

The following report of two teas that were made at Fockia is of interest:—

Short wither 100 lbs. to 65 lbs. in 16 hours.

Long wither 100 lbs. to 65 lbs. in 22 hours.

Apart from the wither the remainder of the manufacture was the same in both cases. The taster's report is as follows:—

The infusion of the short wither was slightly the brighter. The short wither gave good liquor but just a little on the soft side and lacking the quality, strength, and briskness of the long wither which gave a very good liquor. The long wither gave teas a full penny per lb. better than the short wither.

On other occasions the necessity for a good wither has been emphasised. The above figures indicate that time must be considered as a factor in good withering, and I suggest that withering should be if possible for 22 hours, and that no leaf should be lifted from the withering house under 18 hours.

I have already referred to the total extractable solids as being a factor in the valuation of tea. It is of interest to know the variation in the total solids with a good and a poor wither.

Total extractable solids 5-minute infusion.

Grade		18 hours.	30 hours
B. O. P.	...	24%	29%
O. P.	...	22%	28%
B. P.	...	24%	28%
Pekoe	...	20%	22%
B. P. S.	...	25%	29%
P. F.	...	25%	30%

These figures very clearly show a good slow wither increases the amount of substances that are extracted from the finished tea and which can increase the thickness of liquor.

With alteration in wither an alteration also becomes necessary in the fermentation. Three experiments were carried out with the same bulk of leaf. 100 lbs. withered to 80 lbs. required a fermentation of $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours to 3 hours for the taster to report good strength and fair quality. 100 lbs. of leaf withered to 70 lbs. required 2 hours to obtain the report good strength and pungency and fair quality. 100 lbs. of leaf withered to 65 lbs. gave the best liquor with one hour fermentation reported as good quality and strength and very pungent. It will be noted that with the better wither a shorter time of fermentation is required. With a poor wither the variation of $\frac{1}{2}$ hour in the time of fermentation makes but little difference, but with a full wither a variation of $\frac{1}{2}$ hour in the time of fermentation may make a very great deal of difference. Quality may be lost.

These remarks are very sketchy but they may help you to appreciate some of the factors that have to be considered when you are trying to make good quality tea.

Mr. A. G. McKie, Joint Agent, I. G. & R. S. N. Co. Fenchuganj, Beng., said:—

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

On behalf of the Joint Steamer Companies and myself I wish to thank you for the honour extended to me by your invitation to

attend this meeting. I also wish to thank your Chairman for his remarks on the Steamer Coy's work during the June floods and I also wish to say that had I been able to get vessels under the Railway bridges, Silchar would not have been cut off for so long. I also wish to state that I was in communication with Calcutta throughout the floods, and, although my reports were of necessity unofficial and very sketchy, I can safely say that my own firms and others acted on them and so expedited the despatch of stores and flood relief rice.

Finally I would like to say that the Joint Steamer Companies and myself have your interests at heart and we are endeavouring to keep in line with the changing and improving conditions of to-day.

Again thank you, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen for your kind invitation.

The Chairman then rising, said :—

Gentlemen,

I now beg to propose that the Proceedings of the General Committee during the past year be confirmed, the Report adopted and the accounts be passed as correct.

This being seconded by the Vice-Chairman, Mr. C. N. W. Grimshaw, was unanimously passed.

Mr. A. McCreath, proposing a vote of thanks to the Chairman, congratulated the Chairman on the way arrangements had been made for handling all business in connection with the Royal Commission on Labour.

*List of Members of the General Committee, elected
for the year 1929-30.*

MEMBERS.

MR. A. F. STUART, *Chairman.*

MR. C. N. W. GRIMSHAW,

Vice-Chairman ... *Luskerpore.*

„ G. E. RAYNER, M.L.C. ... } *Balivera.*

„ A. G. MORRIS ... }

„ F. J. HEATHCOTE ... } *Mul-Sithet.*

„ S. G. MACBRY ... }

„ C. A. WILLIAMS ... }

„ V. G. EVERY ... } *Kungol-Longai.*

„ T. E. HOLBROOK ... }

„ A. MCCREATH, M.L.C. ... } *Harlakandi.*

„ W. LAWIE ... }

„ J. D. JENKINS ... } *Katia Kheri.*

„ H. EMBLEN ... }

„ E. M. ANDERSON ... *North Cachar.*

„ A. B. BEDDOW ... *Happi Valley.*

„ J. K. CULLINAN ... } *Lakhipo.*

„ C. E. EWING ... }

MR. W. E. D. COOPER, *on leave* *Secretary.*

„ GEO. S. GALL, *Acting Secretary.*

*Minutes of a Meeting of the General Committee held in Silchar
Wednesday, the 21st August 1929.*

Proceedings.

The Proceedings of last Meeting of the General Committee held on 15th May 1929, were confirmed after previous approval in circulation.

Accounts of the Branch.

A statement of accounts of the Branch for the half year ending 30th June 1929, having been previously circulated to all members of the General Committee, was laid on the table, and on the proposition of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. A. McCreath, the accounts were unanimously ordered to be passed.

Political Protection.

Letter dated 23rd April 1929, from the Chairman, Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association, together with other correspondence on the subject, having been previously circulated, was placed before the Meeting for consideration.

The proposal contained in the above mentioned letter was discussed, and agreed that in view of Mr. Roffey's unique experience of planting matters, this Branch would welcome his appointment as Secretary to the Planter Members in Council, with the following provisos:—

- (a) The appointment should not create a precedent.
- (b) Mr. Roffey should be prepared to visit the Planter Members of Council in the Surma Valley, if required to do so.

**Brahmaputra and Surma Valley Labour
Rules Agreement.**

The following letter No. 1003-O, dated 7th August 1929, from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, on the above subject, having

been previously circulated to all members of the Committee, was now placed before the Meeting :

BRAHMAPUTRA AND SURMA VALLEY LABOUR RULES AGREEMENT.

"I am directed to refer to the conference which was held in Calcutta on 26th July last and in particular, to the discussion which then took place with reference to the question of abolishing or revising the Assam Labour Rules Agreement. Before information was received about the coming of the Whitley Commission, the General Committee were provisionally in favour of scrapping the rules altogether; but in view of the feeling in the tea districts that rules of some description are desirable they agreed at the conference to give consideration to the question of revising them with a view to the elimination of references to Act XIII and of such portions of the rules as might be considered to be directed against the labourer himself, such as those relating to the ejection of labour.

In accordance with the arrangement come to at the conference, the General Committee now direct me to invite an expression of your views as to the modifications in the Labour Rules Agreement thought desirable in the Tea districts. To facilitate consideration of the question, I enclose copies of (a) the present Assam Labour Rules Agreement, (b) the Docars Labour Rules Agreement and (c) the revisions suggested by Mr. T. A. Chalmers in 1925."

After some discussion, it was decided to appoint a Sub-Committee consisting of two members from Sylhet and two members from Cachar, with the Chairman of the Branch, *ex-officio*, to deal with the revision of the Labour Rules Agreement.

The following gentlemen consented to form the Sub-Committee : -

Mr. F. J. Heatheote.	} Sylhet.
„ S. G. MacBey.	
„ A. McCreath, M.L.C.	} Cachar.
„ A. B. Beddow.	
„ A. F. Stuart (Chairman) <i>ex-officio</i> .	

It was decided that in view of the importance of the subject, the suggested revisions of the Labour Rules by the Sub-Committee should be circulated to all Chairmen of District Committees for

discussion in their respective areas, before presentation to the General Committee, and final submission to the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

**Inadequate Waterways in the Assam-Bengal Railway
Embankment between Juri station and
Maniksing Village.**

Considered letter dated 28th July 1929, from Mr. F. J. Heathcote on the above subject.

After some discussion, it was proposed, that in view of the recent devastating floods and the general dissatisfaction throughout the District, regarding Railway and Local Board Waterways, etc., that this Association should approach the Commissioner of the Surma Valley and Hill Division, to institute a Government enquiry into the matter, on the lines of 1917 Flood Commission.

Siding charge at Fenchuganj.

The Committee had before them a letter dated 9th August 1929, from Mr. C. A. Williams, regarding the recent imposition of a Siding charge of 6 pies a maund on all outward and inward cargo at Fenchuganj Railway Station.

The matter was referred to the Indian Tea Association's representative on the Assam-Bengal Railway Local Advisory Committee, also to the Assam-Bengal Railway as to the reason of the levy on a Siding that had been in existence for many years.

**Restriction of Boating Outlets due to lack of Headway for
Boats under Railway Bridges on the Karimganj-
Longai Valley Branch Railway.**

The Superintendent, Eraligool and Binodini Tea Estate, read a statement giving particulars regarding the restriction of boating outlets by Railway Bridges on the Karimganj-Longai Valley Branch Railway, and it was decided to take up the matter with the Agent, Assam-Bengal Railway.

Royal Commission on Labour.

The Committee suggested the names of the following gentlemen to give oral evidence before the Royal Commission on Labour, if such evidence should be required :—

- Mr. G. E. Rayner, M.L.C.
- „ A. F. Stuart.
- „ A. McCreath, M.L.C.
- „ H. M. James.
- „ W. E. D. Cooper.

Question of Government opening out the Katakhal Forest Reserve—Hati-Thal.

Considered letter dated 17th July 1929, from Mr. B. Gupta, Manager, Vernerpur Tea Estate, regarding the question of opening out the Katakhal Forest Reserve—Hati-Thal portion.

In view of the great loss of planted area and subsequent financial embarrassment sustained by several Estates in the Hailakandi District, the result of the Floods of June last, it was decided to approach the Commissioner, Surma Valley and Hill Division, with the object of obtaining the release of the Hati-Thal portion of the above reserve for the development of the area.

Dentistry in the Tea Districts.

Letter No. 859 O., dated 12th July 1929, from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, intimating that the Indian Tea Association, London, did not favour this scheme and that it had been decided not to proceed further in the matter, was to be recorded.

Labour Control.

The recent abortive and trivial strikes which had taken place throughout Cachar, were reviewed, and the subject was discussed at some length. It was felt that there should, if possible, be a closer co-operation between Managers and that Directors and Managing

Agents should in all cases extend to Managers discretionary powers as to when strikers may be permitted to resume work. It is considered, a judicious "Lock Out" would have a salutary effect and would probably discourage others and prevent trouble at some future date.

Tea Planters Benevolent Institution.

A sum of Rs. 1,947 - having been collected by the Chairman of the following District Committees in their respective Districts, as donations to the above Institution, the Secretary was instructed to forward the amount to the Committee of Management of the above Institution;—

				Rs.
Luskerpore	...	...	...	200
Balisera	...	...	...	205
Mid-Sylhet	...	...	...	500
Chargola-Longai	...	...	...	270
Hailakandi	...	...	...	80
Chutla Bheel	...	...	...	289
North Cachar	...	...	...	163
Happy Valley	...	...	...	175
Lakhipur	...	...	...	65

Total Rs. 1,947

Thanksgiving Fund.

A sum of Rs. 372/8/- was collected in response to an appeal from His Excellency the Viceroy for a fund to commemorate the recovery of His Majesty the King Emperor from his long and dangerous illness.

The Secretary was instructed to forward this amount to the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy, Simla.

**Messrs. Framjee & Co.'s Bill in connection with the
proposed Entertainment arranged for His
Excellency the Viceroy.**

Mr. Beddow made a statement of the correspondence that had passed with Messrs. Framjee and Company regarding the above, and it was agreed that failing the production of vouchers, the bill could not be passed for payment.

District Committees.

Minutes of Meeting of all District Committees of the Branch held to discuss the question of retaining or abolishing the present Labour Rules Agreement, were to be recorded.

Labour Rules Case.

MADABPORE & RASIDPUR TEA ESTATE

Letters were read from the Manager, Madabpore, regarding some coolies who had absconded to the out-garden of Rasidpur.

The Secretary was directed to write the Manager, Rasidpur, drawing his attention to certain clauses in the Labour Rules Agreement.

European Honorary Magistrates.

The question of European Honorary Magistrates was again brought up, and it would appear that the need was more felt in Sylhet than in Cachar, and it was agreed that the matter might again be taken up with special reference to Sylhet.

*Minutes of a Meeting of the General Committee held in Silchar,
on Wednesday, the 13th November 1929.*

Proceedings.

The Proceedings of last Meeting of the General Committee held on 21st August 1929, were confirmed after previous approval in circulation.

Labour Rules Agreement.

The draft of the Revised Rules prepared by the Sub-Committee appointed by the Branch, also the draft of the Brahmaputra and Surma Valley Labour Rules Agreement promulgated at the Shillong Conference on 9th September, 1929, had both been in circulation and were discussed at some length.

The general feeling was that the Rules as revised by the Sub-Committee were closer to the requirement of the Branch than those put forward by the Conference in Shillong.

Rule 3 provided the only point of controversy, which was raised on the question of the compensation payable to the complainant (i.e. a labourer as defined in this rule).

On being put to the vote 9 were in favour of the rule as it stands, and 5 against.

The minority held the view that no compensation should be claimable by the complainant except the labourer's own liabilities, and they were prepared to subscribe to Rule No. 3, if altered as follows:—

"No employer shall knowingly employ any labourer with liabilities without the previous consent of the labourer's former employer, and unless he is agreeable to repay all such liabilities outstanding against the said labourer."

Political Protection.

The correspondence in circulation was unanimously accepted. It was agreed the annual subscription to the Branch of one and a half annas per acre should be increased by one anna, as from 1930, to meet the expenses incidental to this appointment.

Inadequacy of Waterways in the District.

Considered Mr. Emblen's letter on this subject. In view of the assurance given by Government that the whole question is receiving their attention, it was agreed to await their report.

An Emergency Committee.

In view of the difficulty of getting all the Members of the General Committee together, the Chairman suggested the appointment of a small Emergency Committee to deal with any matters of an urgent nature that may from time to time arise.

The Committee to comprise:—

The Chairman of the Branch,

A. B. Beddow, Esq.,

H. Emblen, Esq.,

and a representative from the Sylhet District.

Royal Commission on Labour in India.

The letter and note sent to the Joint Secretary to the above Commission were confirmed.

Enquiries were to be made regarding the appointment of Assistant Commissioners for the Surma Valley.

Acting Secretary.

It was agreed that the services of Mr. Gall be retained as Assistant Secretary until after the Royal Commission has visited the Surma Valley.

Labour Rules Case.

MAZDEHEE TEA ESTATE vs. RASHIDPUR TEA ESTATE

At the request of the Manager, Mazdehee Tea Estate arbitrators were appointed to settle this case.

Electoral Rolls.

It was considered that the present method of making up the Electoral Rolls for the Planting Constituency required revision, and the Secretary was directed to approach the Government of Assam accordingly.

Proposed Legislation Regarding Commercial Documents.

Letter No. J. 687 1084-89 G. of 12th September 1929, from the Under Secretary to the Government of Assam, was considered, and it was decided that this Branch wished to have their views identified with those of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce.

Indian Tea Production.

A letter from Nawab Musharruf Hosain, Khan Bahadur, on the subject of the formation of a "Medium and Common Tea Producer's Protection League" was read and recorded.

**Representation of the Assam European Constituency
on the Legislative Assembly.**

The Secretary was directed to inform the Assam Branch that the proposed nomination contained in their letter of 14th October, 1929, was unanimously approved.

**The Planters Benevolent Institution
and Thanks-Giving Fund.**

Letter No. 206-1929, dated 3rd September 1929, from the The Planters Benevolent Institution, acknowledging receipt of donation was recorded together with the receipt from H. E. the Viceroy for subscriptions to the Thanksgiving Fund.

**License Fees on Motor Vehicles used on
Estate Roads only.**

It was proposed to bring the matter before the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, for guidance from their legal advisers.

Income Tax on Commission.

Considered letter dated 5th November 1929, from Mr. Beddow, regarding the taxation of the proportion of commission accruing while on leave out of India.

No exemption is granted on this part of a Manager's remuneration which provides an unfair comparison with the conditions prevailing where exemption is granted when consolidated pay is drawn.

Proposed Canteen System on Tea Gardens for the Sale of Exciseable Liquors.

Letter No. 1298-300-M. of 2nd November 1929, from the Secretary to the Government of Assam, Transferred Departments, on the above subject, was circulated for opinion and discussion at the next Meeting.

European Chaplains in Assam: the Sylhet Charge.

Letter No. 1421-O., dated 6th November 1929, from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, regarding the suggested appointment of the Rev. F. W. Reese to the Sylhet Charge was read.

The proposal was unanimously approved.

Allowance to Members Representing the Surma Valley Planting Constituency of the Legislative Council.

There being no definite record in the Minutes of previous Meetings as to the payment of Members representing the Surma Valley Planting Constituency on the Assam Legislative Council, it was agreed to record that an allowance of Rs. 50/- per day should be paid to all members while attending Council in Shillong, including days travelling as heretofore.

His Excellency the Governor of Assam's Visit to Silchar.

The Members of the General Committee of the Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association, agreed to invite H. E. the Governor of Assam to lunch with them on any date suitable to himself during his coming visit to Silchar.

*MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GENERAL
COMMITTEE held in Silchar, on Wednesday,
the 29th January 1930.*

Proceedings.

The Proceedings of last Meeting of the General Committee held on 13th November 1929, were confirmed after previous approval in circulation, with the exception of the following, which was ordered to be rescinded :—

"LABOUR RULES CASE."

Mazdehee Tea Estate v. Kisidpur

"At the request of the Manager, Mazdehee Tea Estate, Arbitrators were appointed to settle this case."

Accounts of the Branch.

A statement of accounts of the Branch for the year ending 31st December 1929, having been previously circulated to all members of the General Committee was laid on the table, and on the proposition of Mr. G. E. Rayner, seconded by Mr. A. McCreath, was unanimously ordered to be passed.

It was unanimously agreed to pay Mr. Geo. S. Gall—the Acting Secretary, an extra remuneration of Rs. 500/- on account of the exceptional amount of work he had dealt with in connection with preparing evidence for the Royal Commission on Labour further to record the appreciation of members of the General Committee of the work he had done in preparation for this enquiry.

Collection of Subscription to the Branch for 1930.

The Secretary was authorised to proceed with the collection of subscriptions for 1930 at the enhanced rate of 2½ annas per acre of tea under cultivation—the enhancement having been approved by

the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, in view of the Branch's commitments on account of Political work.

**Payment of expenses in Entertainment of H. E. the
Governor of Assam and Members of the Royal
Commission on Labour.**

Payment of two bills (Rs. 574.5/-) in connection with the entertainment of His Excellency the Governor and Members of the Royal Commission on Labour were sanctioned.

Indian Tea Cess Committee.

Mr. S. A. Pearson was nominated to the Indian Tea Cess Committee in place of Mr. A. E. Stuart, resigned. Mr. F. J. Heathcote was nominated to fill the other seat on Mr. G. E. Rayner's resignation.

Assam Labour Board.

In a letter dated 3rd January 1930, the Chairman, Assam Labour Board stated that the term of three years for which the Members of the Board were elected, would expire on the 30th April 1930; he accordingly asked that the Surma Valley Branch of the Indian Tea Association should elect three members to represent the Association on the Board for the ensuing three years.

The following three members were elected as representatives of the Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association, on the Assam Labour Board :-

Mr. H. Emblen, Polor Tea Estate, Polor P. O., Cachar

„ S. A. Pearson, Burtoll Tea Estate, Dewan P. O., Cachar

„ F. J. Heathcote, Dhamar Tea Estate, Jun P. O., Sylhet

Arrangement for Representation on the Assam Legislative Council.

Mr. H. M. James having signified his willingness to stand for the vacancy on the Assam Legislative Council caused by Mr. A. McCreath's resignation—it was agreed that the Branch support his nomination.

Proposed Extension of Canteen System for Sale of Country Liquor.

Correspondence on the subject having been previously circulated, a lengthy discussion on the question brought out the fact that districts generally were almost equally divided for and against the proposals of Government. The Secretary was directed to reply to a letter received from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, asking for an expression of opinion on the proposals that this Committee consider the system might be tried for 12 months on gardens where the management is prepared to undertake the responsibility provided that suitable arrangements are made to insure the Companies concerned against any financial loss; it was felt the management of a Canteen would throw a considerable amount of uncongenial and unremunerative work on the shoulders of those concerned, and that only those who were willing to undertake the responsibility, should be asked to do so. No objections were raised to the draft form of License, which was considered suitable.

Consumption of Opium in Assam.

The Secretary's letter dated 10th January 1930 to the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, was confirmed—this Committee being of opinion the question is one that chiefly concerns certain districts in the Brahmaputra Valley.

Employment of Children in Tea Factories.

Extract para 2) from Assam Government letter No. 1400/330-8331-82-G. J., dated the 16th November 1929 to the Commissioner, Surma Valley and Hill Division.

In this connection I am to invite a reference to the Revenue Department letter No. 1780-81-R., dated the 16th July 1923, and to say that the arrangement that Civil Surgeon should certify the ages of children at their headquarters instead of at tea gardens was based on the assurance given by the Branches of the Indian Tea Association that they would advise their members to reduce a minimum if not to abolish altogether the employment of children in factories proper. I am to request that you will be so good as to advise Government whether as the result of your enquiry you consider that a revision of that arrangement is required.

The Secretary was directed to express the opinion that no revision of the present practice is necessary—employment of children in tea garden factories proper, having practically ceased.

Labour Rules Case.

ADAM TILA *vs.* MERTINGA TEA ESTATE.

It was unanimously agreed this was a case for arbitration, and the Secretary was directed to instruct the parties concerned to appear before the following Arbitrators, on Friday, 21st February 1930 at the Srinimala Dāk Bungalow at 9 A.M., with any further evidence they wish to bring forward.

Arbitrators.

Mr. C. N. W. Grimshaw, Mr. G. E. Rayner, M.L.C.,
Mr. C. A. Williams.

Labour Rules Case.

MAZDEHEE TEA ESTATE *vs.* RASHPUR.

Mr. A. G. Morris—the complaint in this case, was asked to vacate his seat while discussion took place.

After perusal of all correspondence, it was unanimously agreed this was a case for arbitration, and the Secretary was directed to instruct the parties concerned to appear before the following Arbitrators, on Friday, February 21st, 1930, at the Retreat Club.

Silchar, at 10 A.M. or after the arrival of mail tram, with any further evidence they wish to bring forward.

Arbitrators :

Mr. S. A. Pearson, Mr. A. B. Beddew, Mr. H. Emblen.

Labour Rules Case.

PHULCHERRA TEA ESTATE vs. RASIDPUR TEA ESTATE.

A statement of the complainant in this case having been read to the Committee, it was unanimously agreed there was a case for arbitration: the defendant in this case being the same as in the previous one, the Secretary was directed to instruct the parties concerned to appear before the same Arbitrators, after the conclusion of the former case on the 21st February 1930 at the Retreat Club, Silchar, with any further evidence they might see fit to produce.

Royal Commission on Labour.

Note of considered view of Surma Valley Branch of the Indian Tea Association as to possibility or expediency of enforcing a reluctant minority of gardens, whether in or outside the Indian Tea Association, standard conditions of maternity benefit and such standards and systems of medical treatment and supervision as are adopted by the estates joining the Labac Practice.

The above note (taken from a Questionnaire) submitted to the Branch by the Royal Commission on Labour was put up for consideration. The Committee record they consider a reply rather beyond their scope, as any recommendations they might make, would involve financial and legal questions outside their control, as well as other districts. The Secretary was directed to forward a copy of the note to the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, for comment.

**Travelling Expenses in connection with the
Labour Commission.**

A letter from Mr. B. Gupta with reference to expenses incurred by him in connection with the Labour Enquiry Commission, having

been circulated the Secretary was directed to pay him any reasonable sum he had spent in touring and generally assisting the Commission to obtain evidence.

District Committee.

Minutes of a Meeting of the Luskpore District Committee held on January 14th, having been circulated to all members of the General Committee, were to be recorded.

With reference to the suggestion for increasing the sale of India Tea in India, and the opinion expressed that insufficient funds were being spent by the Tea Cess Committee in India, Mr. Grimshaw addressed the Meeting at some length, and gave some interesting figures on an experiment he had tried of selling tea locally in packets of 8 annas per lb. He suggested that an organisation should be started to retail tea in the same way as Cigarettes were sold, both perishable articles. He believed a large portion of the surplus crop of common tea could be disposed of in the Bazaars of India.

Tea Cess representatives were asked to bring up this question at the next Meeting of the Tea Cess Committee and the Secretary was directed to send copies of this note to the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, and other Branch Associations.

Mr. Grimshaw's figures for sale of tea in packets in 5 local Bazaars between 8th December 1929 and 28th January 1930.

16 oz. packets	...	...	...	4
8 " "	...	...	...	92
4 " "	...	...	...	581
2 " "	...	...	...	1,112
				<hr/>
Total				1,789

Confirmation of Replies Submitted.

The Committee confirmed the replies already submitted by the Secretary to the following letters: -

- (c) Letter No. 1610-O., dated 9th December 1929, from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, on the subject of Recruiting for Assam in the Bombay Presidency.

b¹ Letter No. 8216 17-P/a, dated 12th December 1929, from the Government of Assam, regarding the proposed amendment of the Sea Customs Act.

Annual General Meeting of the Branch.

It was decided to hold the Annual General Meeting of the Branch on Monday, the 3rd March 1930.

Minutes of a Meeting of the General Committee held in Silchar on Monday, the 3rd March 1930.

Proceedings.

The Proceedings of the last Meeting of the General Committee held on 29th January 1930, were confirmed after previous approval in circulation.

Assam Bengal Railway Local Advisory Committee.

In accordance with arrangement made that the seat on the above Committee allotted to the Indian Tea Association be filled by a nominee of the Surma Valley Branch for the year 1930-31, Mr. D. Paterson of Aenakhall Tea Estate, Monacherra P. O., Cachar was unanimously nominated in place of Mr. A. Chrystall.

Mr. B. Gupta's Travelling Expenses in connection with the Royal Commission on Labour.

The Secretary was directed to pay his expenses in connection with the visit of the Labour Commission to Silchar, and to request payment of his travelling expenses when attending a Conference in Calcutta by the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

Duplicator for the Secretary's Office.

The Committee sanctioned the purchase of a "Roneo" Duplicator for the Secretary's Office, the present one being worn out.

Assam Government's Excise Policy : Proposed Extension of the Canteen System for the Sale of Country Liquor.

Letter No. 279-O., dated the 20th February from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, having been previously circulated, the Secretary was directed to reply:—

1. That this Committee consider the Local Government should make good any loss incurred to Companies in carrying out these experiments.
2. That they were not in favour of selecting any particular District wherein this scheme could be given a trial.
3. That they would be pleased to furnish the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, with a list of the names of Managers of gardens wishing to give the Canteen system a trial.

The Secretary was instructed to circulate all Managers asking for the names of those who were prepared to establish a Canteen on their gardens under their management.

Political Representation of the Tea Industry.

The following draft of a resolution amending the arrangement made with Mr. E. S. Roffey was on the proposal of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Grimshaw, adopted unanimously and ordered to be recorded:—

"That the draft agreement between the Assam Branch Indian Tea Association and Mr. E. S. Roffey be approved and that in connection with Mr. Roffey's salary and out-of-pocket expenses therein mentioned this Association each month the sum of Rs. 333 5 4 together with $\frac{1}{4}$ of such out-of-pocket expenses."

Mr. Roffey than addressed the Meeting at some length and general discussion took place as to ways and means by which the Branch could best avail themselves of his services with especial reference to Electoral Rolls.

Reference was made to Circular No. 30 of 1930, from the Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association, dealing with the question of Mr. Roffey's position as regards the European Association. It was agreed that as far as this Valley was concerned it would be best served by Mr. Roffey becoming an Honorary or Co-opted member of the General and Local Committees to which the Chairman of the European Association agreed.

Further discussion on the question of future representation on the Legislative Assembly took place—the Chairman having explained his views on the subject, he was authorised to act as he thought best on behalf of the Branch, when the matter came up for discussion in Calcutta.

*Minutes of a Meeting of the General Committee held in Suckley Hall
Wednesday, the 7th May 1930.*

Proceedings.

The Proceedings of the last Meeting of the General Committee held on 3rd March 1930, were confirmed after previous approval in circulation.

Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman and Appointment of Secretary of the Branch.

Mr. A. E. Stuart was unanimously re-elected Chairman and Mr. H. M. James was elected Vice-Chairman of the Branch for the ensuing year.

Secretary.—Mr. W. E. D. Cooper was re-appointed Secretary to the Branch for the current year.

Increase of Staff.

In view of the increasing amount of work handled by the Branch Office, it was unanimously agreed to sanction the employment of an assistant clerk at Rs. 35 - per month, and to raise the pay of the Secretary to Rs. 500/- per month.

Arrangement for the Representation on the Assam Legislative Council.

Vacancies being created by the resignation of Messrs. G. E. Rayner and H. M. James on the Assam Legislative Council, it was unanimously agreed that the Branch support the nominations of Messrs. W. E. D. Cooper and F. J. Heathcote.

The Vice-Chairman (Mr. James) having left the room, the Secretary was directed to record a note of protest at the attitude of certain London Directors prohibiting their employees representing the Industry on the Assam Legislative Council and other public bodies. This attitude is viewed with serious apprehensions, as making it increasingly difficult for the General Committee of the Branch to fulfil their obligations of finding suitable representatives for the various public works.

Vacant seats in Council do not assist to foster the interest of the Industry, a predicament they were faced with during the last session.

Appointment of European Honorary Magistrates.

The Commissioner, Surma Valley and Hill Division, having asked the Branch to suggest the name of a European Honorary Magistrate in Katigora Thana of Cachar, the Secretary was directed to write Mr. H. S. Tooth of Jhalpore, asking him if he would undertake the work.

Further to suggest to the Commissioner that the Balisera district of South Sylhet would be a suitable district for another such appointment.

Arbitrators' Findings in the Labour Rules Case.

MAZDEHEE vs. RASIDPUR TEA ESTATE.

Correspondence subsequent to the Arbitrators' finding having been circulated, the Committee considered no further action could be taken until a reply had been received from the Directors of the Baracora (Sylhet) Tea Company.

Membership of the Indian Tea Association Indian owned gardens.

Letter No. 628-O., dated the 17th April 1930, from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, asking what steps had been taken to induce Indian owned Concerns to join the Association and enclosing a letter from Messrs. Williamson Magor and Company on the same subject, were considered. The reply submitted by the Secretary was confirmed and a statement laid on the table showing the result of efforts made to increase the Membership.

The Committee agreed that the reasons given in Messrs. Williamson Magor and Company's letter for the poor response received from Indian owned concerns were substantially correct. The only suggestion they had to make on the points raised were that the Branches should be represented on the Financial Committee of the Scientific Department with the idea of being able to assist in effecting economies. The Secretary was further directed to write any Agency House acting as Forwarding Agents for Indian owned concerns on the subject.

Indian owned gardens in the Surma Valley according to the Directory number 13 with 14,000 acres under tea, some of which is situated in Tipperah. Of these 12 only are members of this Branch with an approximate area of 4,000 acres, or 28% of the total.

Area of tea in the Surma Valley on which subscriptions are paid is 135,000 acres, the Indian owned concerns, non-members, thereof represent 31 gardens with an acreage of 10,000 acres.

Invalid Coach.

The following resolution passed by the Assam Branch, British Medical Association at a Meeting held at Jorhat on the 30th January 1930, was next taken into consideration :—

“That a letter be written to the Agent, Assam-Bengal Railway, requesting that the invalid coach be transferred to Lumding from Chittagong for the better convenience of patients and that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Assam Valley and Surma Valley Branches of the Indian Tea Association.”

The Committee found themselves unable to support the resolution and Mr. Paterson, who represents the Industry on the Assam-Bengal Railway Advisory Committee, promised to bring up the matter at the next Meeting of that Committee.

Reduction of Recruiting Expenditure.

A letter from the Chairman, Assam Labour Board on the subject of reducing Sardars' commissions in cases in which the sardar had merely to go to a famine camp and enrol recruits in the Daimoh district, having been previously circulated, the Secretary was directed to reply that the General Committee of this Branch considered this a question better dealt with by the Tea Districts Labour Association and Agency Houses of individual concerns.

Future of Medical Research in Assam.

The following D. O. letter No 796-802-M., dated 12th April 1930, from the Government of Assam to the Chairman was laid on the table :—

I am desired by the Government of Assam to forward for your perusal a note which has been prepared upon the future of medical research in this province and malaria in particular. I am to request the favour of your comments upon the scheme for the constitution of a Provincial Research Committee put forward therein, and your suggestions as to its nature and mode of working. In

particular I am to enquire whether your Branch would be willing to allow a member of the Branch to sit upon the proposed Committee.

The Chairman having explained that he understood a scheme was on foot to run an organised Malarial research department by the Tea Industry in conjunction with the Ross Institute, the Secretary was directed to reply that this Committee are not in a position to comment on, or associate themselves with the proposals made by Government till more information is available.

**Liability of Tea Planter's Provident Funds to
payment of Income Tax.**

A member of the Branch having obtained legal opinion to the effect that "By Act XII of 1929 contribution to Private Provident Fund has been exempted from tax, but in that Act there is further provision that the Provident Fund must be recognised by the Commissioner of Income Tax, Shillong, before its contribution is exempted."

General discussion took place, which brought out the fact that Tea Company Provident Funds were run on a variety of systems; it was therefore agreed to address the Commissioner of Income Tax on the subject of rebate of Income Tax on all Tea Companies' Provident Funds under the new Act.

**Assam Government's Excise Policy: proposed extension
of the Canteen System for the sale of
Country Liquor.**

A referendum to all Managers of gardens in the Surma Valley having elicited the information that five only were willing to give the canteen system a trial on their gardens, the Secretary was directed to forward their names to Government and to inform the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, as to the position.

The Assam Land Revenue Re-Assessment Bill, 1930.

As there appeared to be some misconception on the part of members of the Branch as to the scope of this Bill, the following note by Mr. E. S. Roffey, on the subject, was read to the Meeting :—

"Up to date re-assessment of land in the Assam Valley has been the subject to Executive orders only. For some years Indian Non-Official members of the Assam Legislative Council have pressed Government to introduce legislation on this subject and I understand Provincial Councils have also requested their Local Governments to introduce legislation on the matter. I believe the Bordeli incident of 1928 was due to want of similar legislation, with the result that, in 1929, Local Government Revenue Officials throughout India attended a Conference in Delhi convened by the Government of India to consider the whole question.

The Government of Assam in 1925 introduced a similar Bill in the Assam Legislative Council which was so altered by the Select Committee, that it was withdrawn. In 1929 another Bill was drafted by the Local Government and a Conference of certain members of Council, including Mr. Roffey, was held with the result the principle of the Bill was approved, as also the maximum rate of enhancement etc.

Mr. Roffey spoke in favour of the introduction of the Bill at last March Session. If passed this year it can only affect possibly some portion of the Darrang District, the re-settlement of which has not yet been completed, and the Lakhimpur District, the re-settlement of which has just been commenced.

It is considered by the Planting Members of the Assam Legislative Council that legislation on approved lines on this subject is infinitely preferable to re-settlement being left to Executive orders, which may vary from time to time in accordance with the idiosyncrasies of individual Officers."

The Secretary was directed to reply to letter No. 627-O, from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, that their attitude towards

this legislation coincided with the views expressed by Mr. Reffay and their representatives on the Legislative Council.

**Representation of the Tea Industry on the
Legislative Assembly.**

The position with reference to the negotiations now taking place was explained to the Meeting by the Chairman and correspondence on the subject laid on the table.

District Committees.

Minutes of Meetings of the following District Committees were to be recorded :—

Hailakandi District Committee Meetings held on 15th March 1930 19th April 1930.

Chutla Bheel District Committee Meeting held on 17th March 1930.

Luskarpore District Committee Meeting held on 3rd April 1930.

Balisera District Committee Meeting held on 8th March 1930.

North Cachar District Committee Meeting held on 15th March 1930.

Mid-Sylhet District Committee Meeting held on 17th March 1930.

Happy Valley District Committee Meeting held on 18th March 1930.

With regard to the resolution passed by the Hailakandi District Committee at their Meeting held on 19th April, on the question of the Cachar-Sylhet Trunk Road—

The selection of the Monacherra-Ratabari portion of this road having been cut out of the Road Board Programme on the ground of expense, members of Council were asked to solicit further information as to how the estimate of six lakhs for 10 miles of road

some of which is already in existence, were arrived at, as this Committee considered it out of all reason, with the facts at their disposal, and that further enquiry was necessary.

Messrs. Paterson and Holbrook representing the Hailakandi and Chingola-Longai District Committees, having produced maps showing various possible alignments on the Sylhet side of the Chhata Chura Range, it was agreed not to let this matter drop, as it was considered the most important section of the Trunk Road Scheme for which the tea industry had been working in connection with the Commissioner of the Division for the last 20 years. Suggestions made by Government re: using a road already constructed over the Chatta Chura Range by the B. O. C. rising to 1,000 feet and many miles south of the direct alignment would, it was considered, serve no useful purpose in any Trunk Road Scheme.

Resolution passed by the Happy Valley District Committee at their Meeting held on 18th April 1930 re: Imposition of Toll on the Rongpore Bridge.

The Secretary was directed to address the Commissioner on the subject of the imposition of a Toll by the Local Board on the above bridge, which had previously been free before repairs were undertaken. While in agreement with the policy of toll bridges when these were over 300 feet in length as laid down by the Road Board, this Committee would point out that if the Local Board were to levy a toll on every small bridge they repaired or renewed movement of any motor vehicle along Government roads would soon become impossible on account of expense.

Resolution passed by the Laksapore District Committee at their Meeting held on 3rd April 1930 re: the Allotment of the money raised from the Tea Rates Road Fund in the Suma Valley.

The Secretary was directed to put this on the agenda of the next Meeting.

Wireless Station in Silchar.

Mr. Grimshaw spoke on the subject of the necessity for a Wireless Station in Silchar; it was agreed to take the matter up and

examine the possibility of it being attached to the Head Quarters of the Surma Valley Light Horse.

Recruiting for Assam in the Bombay Presidency.

No. 778-O., dated Calcutta, 21st June 1929.

From—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am instructed by the General Committee to enclose herewith a copy of a letter dated 7th June 1929 which the Association has received from the Government of Assam, General and Judicial Department, Immigration Branch, on the above subject. The Committee have requested the Tea Districts Labour Association and also those firms which recruit in the Bombay Presidency independently of that Association, to be good enough to furnish for the purposes of the suggested investigation, statements of the numbers of Bombay coolies who have decamped or have been repatriated before the expiry of their term of employment and of those who have adapted themselves to life on the gardens. I am now to enquire whether the Committee may be favoured with the experience of your Branch Association in the matter.

Letter No. Immg. 139-3631-G.J., dated Shillong, 7th June 1929.

From—The CHIEF SECRETARY to the Government of Assam, General and Judicial Department, Immigration Branch,

To—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

I am directed to say that the Governor-in-Council has noticed with concern the large number of cases in which coolies imported from Bombay have refused to stay on the gardens where they were employed. He does not know what proportion the number of Bombay coolies who have decamped or been repatriated before the expiry of their term of employment bears to those who have adapted themselves to life on the gardens, but the number is large enough to justify a fear that in many cases the labour recruited was of an

unsuitable type or was not well handled. It is of course unnecessary to lay stress on the danger of reaction on the labour force as a whole which arises from the existence on the gardens of a considerable class of dissatisfied coolies. I am therefore to suggest that the Association should undertake a thorough investigation in Assam with the object of finding out to what extent and in what circumstances Bombay coolies have been and can be successfully employed and to what extent and in what circumstances they have been and will be a failure. The information which will be acquired by an investigation on these lines will, it is hoped, enable the industry and its agents to recruit more successfully and go far to prevent the exodus of dissatisfied coolies in the future.

Dated Binnakandi, 23rd August 1929.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

Recruiting for Assam in the Bombay Presidency.

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 778-O., dated the 21st June 1929, which accompanied copy of letter No. Jinnghn.-139-3531-G.J., dated 7th June 1929, from the Government of Assam, on the above subject.

The Chairman of District Committees of this Branch were requested to obtain the experience of gardens in their respective districts, who had employed labour from the Bombay Presidency.

It would appear from replies received that the experience of the gardens concerned varies very considerably.

Given the right type and class of recruit, with careful handling and attention the first few months until they get acclimatised and get over their home-sickness, Bhils, Dublas and Warlis castes seem to settle and work fairly well.

It is to be regretted that closer inspection and enquiry should not have been made in the district before despatching these batches of coolies, as undoubtedly a large number of undesirables were consigned, whose influence upset possible settlers.

Some of the batches received were not agricultural labourers, but in at least one case, Bombay Mill hands who demanded rising wages, and had to be repatriated; another batch were returned, as they proved useless and had a lot of disease among them.

From the foregoing it may be concluded that where a careful selection is made, this source of supply may prove of value to the industry.

No. 1108-O., dated Calcutta, 30th August 1929.

From—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association.

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter dated 23rd August 1929, in the above connection, the contents of which largely confirm the views expressed in the reply made by the Association to the Government of Assam's letter of 7th June last.

No. 1610-O., dated Calcutta, 9th December 1929.

From The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association.

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

Recruiting for Assam in the Bombay Presidency.

With reference to the letters which have been passed between us on the above subject

1. Letter No. 1026, dated 12th August 1929, without enclosures, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam, General and Judicial Department, Immigration Branch.

2. Assam Government's reply No. Immigration-273-7316-G, J, dated 21st September 1929.

3. Letter No. 1313 O., dated 22nd October 1929 to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam, General and Judicial Department, Immigration Branch.

4. Assam Government's reply No. Immigration-360-5737-G, J, dated 28th November 1929.

resting with my letter No. 1108-O., dated 30th August 1929, I am directed by the General Committee to forward for your information the accompanying copies of the marginally noted letters which have been

exchanged between my Committee and the Government of Assam on this question.

2. It will be noted from the Local Government's latest letter of the 28th November 1929 that, while His Excellency the Governor of Assam accepts as *prima facie* satisfactory the present arrangements in regard to actual recruiting operations, on the understanding stated in that letter, he considers it essential, in order that coolies may not be sent to unsuitable localities or gardens, that an investigation should be undertaken in Assam with the object of finding out in what circumstances Bombay coolies have been successfully employed and in what circumstances they have been a failure on Assam tea gardens. It will be noted further, that His Excellency advises that this investigation should be undertaken immediately seeing that the question may engage the attention of the Royal Commission on Labour.

3. I am accordingly directed to request you to be good enough to lay this correspondence promptly before your Committee with a view to the necessary investigation being made with as little delay as possible, and to ask that the outcome of this investigation be communicated to me at the earliest opportunity.

No. 1026-O., dated Calcutta, 12th August 1929

From—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association.

To—The CHIEF SECRETARY to the Government of Assam,
General and Judicial Department, Immigration
Branch

I have the honour to refer to Government's letter (Immig. E93531-G.J.), dated 7th June 1929, in which the suggestion was made that the Association should undertake a thorough investigation with the object of ascertaining to what extent, and in what circumstances, Bombay coolies had been and could be successfully employed on tea gardens in Assam and to what extent, and in what circumstances they had been and would be a failure.

2. The General Committee have enlisted the assistance of the Tea Districts Labour Association in the collection of the required particulars, and they have also ascertained the experience of the three Agency Houses in the membership of the Association which recruited in the Bombay Presidency independently of the Tea

Districts Labour Association. They direct me to enclosed for the

(a) Tea Districts Labour Association statements for the period 1st September 1926 to 15th June 1929, Pool System.

(b) Tea Districts Labour Association statements for the period 1st September 1926 to 11th June 1929, Sirlari System.

(c) Letter dated 10th July 1929, with enclosures, from Messrs. James Finlay & Co., Ltd.

(d) Letter dated 25th July 1929, with enclosures, from Messrs. Octavius Steel & Co., Ltd.

(e) Letter dated 25th July 1929 from Messrs. Jardine Skinner & Co.

Government of Assam's information, copies of the marginally noted papers, from which it will be observed that experience has been so varied as to make it a matter of considerable difficulty to say definitely at this stage whether

the Bombay coolie is or is not likely to prove a success in Assam tea gardens. In the case of the Tea Districts Labour Association, the percentages of coolies who have been repatriated or who have absconded before the expiry of their agreement periods are as follows :—

(a)	1st September 1926 to 31st August 1927	...	9.63%
(b)	„ 1927 „ 1928	...	15.86%
(c)	„ 1928 to June 1929	...	4.13%

The figures are higher in the case of the three Agency Houses which recruited independently of the Tea Districts Labour Association in the Bombay Presidency :—

(a)	Messrs. James Finlay & Co., Ltd.	...	32.54%
(b)	Messrs. Jardine Skinner & Co.	...	52.02%
(c)	Messrs. Octavius Steel & Co., Ltd.	...	27.34%

3. On the whole, the General Committee are inclined to the opinion that an increasingly greater measure of success is likely to attend recruiting activities in the Bombay district as more experience is gained, and as it become more readily evident which of the several castes are suitable for Assam. The Committee will be interested to learn how, in the light of the particulars which accompany this letter the question is regarded by Government.

Letter No. Immgn-273-7316-G.J., dated Shillong,
21st September 1929.

From—The CHIEF SECRETARY to the Government of Assam,
General and Judicial Department, Immigration
Branch.

To—The SECRETARY Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

I am directed to refer to the correspondence ending with your letter No. 1926-O., dated the 12th August 1929, on the subject of the recruitment of coolies from Bombay. By the "thorough investigation in Assam," which was suggested in my letter No. Immgn-139-4531-G. J., dated the 7th June 1929, the Government of Assam contemplated something more than the collection of statistics from the Tea Districts Labour Association and the three Agency Houses which recruited independently of that Association. However such information as has been obtained seems to point decidedly to the correctness of the view which was urged by this Government in Mr Lloyd's letter No. 3081-F.M., dated the 11th May 1926, that all recruitment in Bombay by members of the Indian Tea Association should be controlled by the Tea Districts Labour Association. The present position is clearly unsatisfactory. The system now in force has undoubtedly brought to Assam a considerable number of unsuitable and discontented coolies. The presence of such men is a potential danger to the welfare of the industry and the peace of the province and, unless the Indian Tea Association is prepared to accept the view of this Government and place all their recruitment in Bombay under satisfactory supervision and control, the Government Council will be compelled to press for the extension of Act VI of 1901 to that Presidency.

2. I am to request that you will be so good as to place the views of this Government before your Association for their careful consideration.

Letter No. 1343-O., dated 22nd October 1929.

From—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

To—The SECRETARY to the Government of Assam, General
and Judicial Department, Immigration Branch.

I have the honour to refer, in continuation of my acknowledgment No. 1273-O. of 4th October, to your letter No. Immgn-273-7316 G.J.,

dated 21st September 1929, on the subject of recruitment of labour for Assam in the Bombay Presidency.

The Committee have given very careful consideration to the opinions expressed by the Government of Assam, namely, that the statistics forwarded with their No. 1026-O., dated 12th August last point decidedly to the correctness of the view urged in 1926 that all recruitment in Bombay by members of the Indian Tea Association should be controlled by the Tea Districts Labour Association; and that the system now in force has undoubtedly brought to Assam a considerable number of unsuitable and discontented coolies, whose presence is a potential source of danger to the welfare of the industry and to the peace and prosperity of the province. The Committee are now informed that Messrs. Octavius Steel and Company have closed down their independent recruiting organisation in the Bombay Presidency, as also have Messrs. Jardine Skinner and Company. The only firm in the membership of the Association which at present conducts recruiting operations for certain of its interests in that area independently of the Tea Districts Labour Association is that of Messrs. James Finlay and Company, Limited. But Messrs. James Finlay and Company, Limited, it is understood, now pass all Bombay recruits through the agencies of the Tea Districts Labour Association for acceptance or rejection, and the Labour Association accordingly maintains a large measure of control over the types sent up to Assam. It appears therefore that the satisfactory supervision of members' recruiting operations in Bombay thought essential by the Government of Assam has already been secured; and the Committee accordingly trust that Government will not now find it necessary to resort to the alternative course of pressing for the extension of Act VI of 1901 to that Presidency.

In general, the Committee adhere to the view expressed in their letter of 12th August last, that it is still too soon to say definitely whether the Bombay coolie is likely to prove a success in Assam tea gardens. Their own opinion is that the problem of excluding unsuitable types is being gradually solved and they are hopeful that single control of the Tea Districts Labour Association will result in a further improvement in the proportion of Bombay coolies who are prepared to settle down in Assam as useful members of the tea garden community.

Letter dated Shillong, 28th November 1929.

From -The CHIEF SECRETARY to the Government of Assam,
General and Judicial Department, Immigration
Branch,

To -The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

I am directed to refer to the correspondence ending with your letter No. 1343-O., dated 22nd October 1929, on the subject of recruitment of labour in the Bombay Presidency, and to say that so far as the actual recruiting operations are concerned, the Governor-in-Council accepts the present arrangements as *prima facie* satisfactory on the understanding that a real responsibility is placed on the Agencies of the Tea Districts Labour Association for the acceptance or rejection of persons recruited by Messrs. James Finlay and Company. There is, however, one other point which was mentioned in my letter No. Immgn-139-3331-G.J., dated the 7th June 1929, but has not been noticed by your Association. This Government suggested that the trouble that had been experienced with coolies from Bombay might be due to some extent to bad handling in Assam. It is possible that coolies are sent to gardens where conditions of management or otherwise are not favourable and where the coolies are not likely to settle down.

My letter quoted above suggested that a thorough investigation should be undertaken in Assam with the object of finding out in what circumstances Bombay coolies have been successfully employed and in what circumstances they have been a failure, and the Governor-in-Council still considers such an investigation in Assam essential in order that coolies may not be sent in future to unsuitable localities or gardens. His Excellency in Council advises the Association to undertake this investigation immediately, as the question may engage the attention of the Royal Commission on Labour.

Dated Binnakandi, 8th January 1930.

From -The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian
Tea Association,

To -The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

In reply to your letter No. 1610-O., dated the 9th December 1929, with enclosures on the above subject, my Committee desire me

to say that after further investigation they have nothing to add to their letter addressed you on the 23rd August 1929, a copy of which I enclose for ready reference.

The general opinion is that the experiment of recruiting for Assam in the Bombay Presidency justifies further trial.

Destruction of Dhatura Plants.

Letter No. 655-56-M, dated Shillong, 9th July 1929.

From—The SECRETARY to the Government of Assam.

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed to say that in the course of his visit to Dibrugarh in January last the attention of His Excellency the Governor was drawn to the case of an unfortunate man awaiting trial on a charge of murdering three people while under the influence of liquor and that his Excellency was told that it is a common practice to mix a little *Dhatura* seed with country liquor to make the latter stronger.

I am therefore to draw your attention to the evil and to suggest that the members of your Branch Tea Association be asked to insist on the destruction of *Dhatura* wherever found within the tea garden area so that the tea garden coolies may not have an opportunity of mixing *Dhatura* in their liquor.

Applications for Passports.

Letter No. Pol-1945-1915-76-A.P., dated Shillong, 8th July 1929.

From—The SECRETARY to the Government of Assam, Political Department.

To—ALL DISTRICT, POLITICAL AND SUBDIVISIONAL OFFICERS and POLITICAL AGENT in Manipur.

I am directed to say that applications for passports very often reach Government incomplete such as without any information regarding the passports last issued to the applicants. This entails unnecessary correspondence in the Secretariat. I am therefore to request that all applications for passports may henceforth be

accompanied by old passports, if any, or in case of loss or destruction of old passports the facts should be definitely stated, giving in such cases, the names of offices whence they were issued and; if possible, their numbers and dates of issue should be included.

2. I am to add that the declaration of classes 'f' and 'g' in the form of application regarding possession of passports should always be filled in before the application is submitted to Government.

3. Applications received without the above information will invariably be returned.

Time table for the Pandu-Gauhati-Shillong Motor Service.

Letter No. 18769-M.V., dated Shillong, 23rd September 1929.

From—The SECRETARY to Government, Public Works Department, Motor Vehicles Branch.

To—The Manager, Commercial Carrying Company, Limited.

In continuation of this Department letter No. 10349-M.V., dated the 5th June 1929, I am directed to say that Government have decided to extend the concession of a No. 1 Service Car being available for the up journey in the afternoon on requisition on 24 hours' notice on payment of the ordinary ticket, *i.e.* each passenger paying according to the prescribed rate for himself and not for the whole car, to the passengers also travelling by the Amnigoan-Tezpur-Kokilamukhi daily mail service which arrives at Gauhati at 9-20 hours.

Indigent Persons proceeding by rail for Anti-rabic Treatment.

Letter No. E.P./19, dated Chittagong, the 9th November 1929.

From—The AGENT, Assam-Bengal Railway.

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I beg to inform you that on and after 1st April 1930, I propose to withdraw the concession of free rail conveyance previously allowed to indigent persons proceeding for anti-rabic treatment.

2. The Railway has for many years allowed this concession and it is one which it is in no way called upon to give and if free railway conveyance is required to be given, it should be borne by Government and not by the Railway Company. The number of persons conveyed free is steadily on the increase and during the year 1928-29 amounted to 3,574 free tickets or approximately 10 per diem throughout the year. With the opening out of new depots in the plains making treatment more readily available to the masses the number travelling for treatment is likely to increase rapidly and I do not consider the Railway should be called upon to bear the increased burden.

3. I shall therefore be obliged by your notifying all concerned that on and after 1st April 1930 full fare must be paid in cash by all indigent persons.

**Production of the Dead Body at the Thana in an
Unnatural Death Case.**

Dated Binnakandi, 31st August 1929.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

To—The DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, Cachar.

I have been directed to approach you regarding the attached notice which has been circulated to several Estates in this district.

I am to enquire if this regulation can be waived with respect to tea gardens, as it would seem that no useful purpose can be served by sending to the Thana the corpse of a suicide or case of accidental death.

If any such case occurred, the cause of death would be certified by a qualified Medical Officer.

A case of suspicious death would, of course, as heretofore, be notified to the Authorities, and any subsequent orders immediately complied with.

I beg to inform you *vide* Deputy Commissioner's order of 14th August 1929, that the dead body of the unnatural death cases should be brought to the Thana before disposal.

Your obedient servant,

Sd.....

UDARBAND,

26th August 1929.

Letter No. 4749-G., dated Silchar, 19th September 1929.

From—The DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, Cachar.

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated the 31st August 1929, regarding the production of the dead body at the thana in an unnatural death case and to say that the order referred to by you will not apply to tea gardens except when there is any suspicion of foul play. Modified instructions are being issued to the police.

Tea Rates Road Fund.

Letter No. 554-F(x), dated Shillong, 29th January 1930.

From—The SECRETARY to the Government of Assam,
Finance Department,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association

I am directed to refer to your letter No. 2-G., dated the 8th January 1930, and to forward a copy of the following documents relating to the Tea Rates Road Fund:—

1. Statements showing the receipts and expenditure of the Tea Rates Road Fund up to the 30th November 1929

(2) Progress report of works undertaken from the Tea Rates Road Fund.

(3) Note on the financial position of the Tea Rates Road Fund.

(4) Proceedings of a meeting of the Tea Rates Board held on the 11th September 1929.

2. As regards the construction of a bridge over the Manu river, I am to say that Government are awaiting the receipt of a reply from the Commissioner, Surnia Valley and Hill Division, who has been asked to report if the Maulvi Bazar Local Board will undertake the maintenance of the bridge when constructed. At the request of the Board the plans and estimates for the bridge have been recently sent to them.

3. I am to add the work of metalling the Surnia Valley Gaglacherra Road is in progress as will be observed from the enclosed copy of the statement of expenditure.

Tea Rates Road Fund Receipts.

Years.	Sylhet.		Cachar.		Total Surnia Valley	
	Rs.	As. P.	Rs.	As. P.	Rs.	As. P.
Revenue year ending 30th June 1928.	20,405	4 1	10,925	5 0	13,390	9 1
Revenue year ending 30th June 1929.	47,447	13 3 (b)	15,707	12 0	63,155	9 3
From 1st July to 30th November 1929.	2,626	9 0	1,796	6 0	1,422	15 0
Grand Total	70,539	10 4	28,429	7 0	98,968	1 0

(b) Including Rs. 14-9-0 shown by Comptroller under Khasi Hills.

Tea Rates Road Fund Expenditure.

Years.	Sylhet.		Cachar.		Total, Surma Valley.	
	Rs.	As. P.	Rs.	As. P.	Rs.	As. P.
Revenue year ending 30th June 1928.			25	0 0 (a)	25	0 0
Revenue year ending 30th June 1929.	462	14 6	2,193	12 0 (b)	2,656	19 6
From 1st July to 30th November 1929.			5,123	0 0 (c)	5,123	0 0
Grand Total	462	14 6	7,341	12 0	7,804	19 6

(a) Refunds.

(b) Rs. 693 12 0 represents refund; and Rs. 1,500 0 0 for metalling a portion of the Somairkona-Ganglacherra Road.

(c) Metalling a portion of the Somairkona-Ganglacherra Road.

Recruitment of Labour from the Bombay Presidency.

Tea Districts Labour Association,

Calcutta, the 5th July 1928

Circular No. A-21 1927-28.

Dear Sir,

We particularly wish to draw attention of constituents to the fact that sirdars consigned to the Bombay Presidency are not to be given certificates, as sirdars are consigned to other agencies. They are hereby to be provided with recruiting passes, which do not require a Magistrate's countersignature, nor is cess payable on such passes.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/- BEGG DUNLOP & Co., LTD.

Secretaries.

Indian Factories Act : Section 21 & 22.

ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL.

Dated the 8th May 1930.

No. 4326-G. J. —In exercise of the powers conferred by section 22 of the Indian Factories Act, 1911 XII of 1911, as subsequently amended, and in supersession of the orders contained in Revenue Department Notification No. S.R., dated the 3rd January 1927, the Governor-in-Council is pleased to exempt factories situated on and used solely for the purposes of tea plantations in the province of Assam from the provisions of sections 21 and 22 of the said Act on the conditions specified below : —

- a) that no person shall be required to work continuously without a whole day's leave for more than fourteen days at a time;
- b) that the number of workers employed on a particular day is always at least twenty-five per cent. greater than the number actually required to do the work at any given time; and
- c) that this exemption shall not apply in the case of the employment of children.

Assam Local Self-Government Act.

Dated Martycherra, the 23rd July 1929.

From : The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To : The COMMISSIONER, Surma Valley and Hill Division, Silchar.

I have been directed to ask if you will kindly give a ruling on the following point, which has arisen as a result of the use by Local Boards in this Valley, of their powers under Section 52 A and B of the Assam Local Self Government Act, to impose a license tax on vehicles, plying within the local limits of their jurisdiction :

Is a motor lorry which is used on Tea Estate roads only and for purely garden purposes, liable to pay the above

license fee? It being clearly understood that the lorry does not run on roads provided or subsidised by any public body or authority.

No. 3791-G., dated Silchar, the 25th October 1929.

From—The OFFICIATING COMMISSIONER, Surma Valley and Hill Division.

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

In continuation of my office letter No. 2720-G., dated the 21st July 1929, about the taxation by Local Boards of carts and carriages residing in tea gardens, I have the honour to say that the tax is imposed under section 52 B of the Assam Local Self Government Act. I am advised that it is not a tax for merely using the public roads and that the Local Boards have powers to impose license fees for any cars that may be used within their jurisdiction though not used on public roads under their control.

License on Motor Vehicles used on Tea Estate Roads only.

Dated Martynherra, the 17th November 1929.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

To—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

I have been directed by my Committee to ask if you will be so good as to obtain your legal advisers' views on the following point which has arisen as a result of the use by Local Boards in the Surma Valley of their powers under Sections 52 A and B of the Assam Local Self-Government Act, to impose a license fee on vehicles within the local limits of their jurisdiction:—

Is a motor lorry which is used on Tea Estate roads only and for purely garden purposes, liable to pay the above license fee? It being clearly understood that the lorry does not run on roads provided or subsidised by any public body or authority.

No. 1563-O., dated Calcutta, the 2nd December 1929.

From—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To—MESSRS. ORR DIGNAM AND COMPANY, Calcutta.

The Assam Local Self-Government (Amendment) Act 1926 Sections 52 a) and 52 b): Taxation of tea garden motor lorries.

As a result of the use by Local Boards in the Surma Valley of their powers under the above Act to impose a license fee on vehicles within the local limits of their jurisdiction I am directed by the Committee to request you kindly to advise them whether or not you consider a motor lorry which is used on tea estate roads only and solely for garden purposes, is liable to pay this license fee. It should of course be clearly understood that the lorry does not run on roads provided or subsidised by any public body or authority.

An early reply would be very much appreciated.

Copy to the Secretary, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association, for information, with reference to his letter dated 17th November 1929.

Sd./ A. C. DANIEL.

The 2nd December 1929.

Asst. Secretary.

No. 1636-O., dated Calcutta, 16th December 1929.

From—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

The Assam Local Self-Government (Amendment) Act 1926—Sections 52 a) and b): Taxation of tea garden motor lorries.

With reference to the copy I sent you of my letter No. 1563-O., dated 2nd December 1929 to this Association's solicitors, Messrs. Orr, Dignam and Company, I now have pleasure in sending you the accompanying copy of that firm's reply No. W./34555, dated 5th December 1929.

No. W/34555, dated Calcutta, 5th December 1929.

From—MESSRS. ORR, DIGNAM & COMPANY.

To—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association.

The Assam Local Self-Government Amendment Act, 1926.

We have considered the question raised in your letter of the 2nd instant. The Act as amended gives the Local Board power to levy a license fee on the owner of every carriage or cart within the local limits of the Boards jurisdiction. On the assumption, therefore, that the Boards powers have been properly exercised, the position is that the owner of every vehicle within the Local limits of the Boards jurisdiction must take out a license and pay the prescribed fees therefor. The obligation to take out a license automatically attaches to every vehicle in the jurisdiction irrespective of where it is used or even whether it is used at all. In this state of affairs, therefore, the fact that a motor lorry is used on tea estate roads only and solely for estate purposes does not affect the owners liability to take out a license in respect of such vehicle.

Appointment of European Honorary Magistrates.

Dated Martycherra, the 29th August 1929.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

To—The COMMISSIONER, Surma Valley and Hill Division.

The Deputy Commissioner, Cachar, in his letter No. 1098-G. of 10th May 1929, invited my Committee to nominate suitable gentlemen who would serve as Honorary Magistrate in Cachar.

It was found on enquiry that the need of Honorary Magistrates was not felt in Cachar at present and no names were put forward.

No similar request has been received from the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, but at the recent Meeting of the General Committee of this Branch, it was brought to their notice that the need for Honorary Magistrates was felt at least in one district in Sylhet. I was therefore directed to enquire if it was your intention to ask for the names of gentlemen willing to serve as Honorary Magistrates in that District.

No. 3255-G., dated Silchar, the 3rd September 1929.

From—The PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO THE COMMISSIONER,
Surma Valley and Hill Division,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea
Association.

I am directed by the Commissioner to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 29th August 1929, regarding the appointment of European Honorary Magistrates and to say that the matter is under consideration.

Dated Martycherra, the 8th October, 1929.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea
Association.

To—The COMMISSIONER, Surma Valley and Hill Division.

I have been directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 3255-G., dated the 3rd ultimo, and to say that it appears from the Chief Secretary's D. O. No. J.-382-6093-G.J., dated 8th August 1929, to your self, that Government is prepared to receive names of suitable gentlemen to act as Honorary Magistrates from Sylhet as well as Cachar.

I have therefore circulated certain senior planters in that District enquiring if they would be prepared to act in their locality, in the capacity of Honorary Magistrates.

No. 3778-G., dated Silchar, 24th October 1929.

From—The COMMISSIONER, Surma Valley and Hill
Division,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea
Association.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 8th October 1929, regarding the appointment of European Honorary Magistrates in the Surma Valley and to say that names of suitable gentlemen may please be furnished as early as possible.

Dated Martycherra, 26th October 1929.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The COMMISSIONER, Surma Valley and Hill Division

European Honorary Magistrates.

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 3778-G., dated the 24th instant on the above subject, and beg to detail below the name of two gentlemen willing to act in the above-mentioned capacity:—

1. Lieut-Colonel J. MacKnight, V.D.
Kurkorie Tea Estates, Kalam P. O., Cachar.
 2. C. A. Williams, Esqr.,
Ruthna Tea Estates, Jam P. O., Sylhet.
-

No. 1164-G., dated Silchar, 15th March 1930

From—The COMMISSIONER, Surma Valley and Hill Division,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I have the honour to refer to your letter dated the 26th October 1929, regarding the appointment of European Honorary Magistrates and to say that as Lieutenant Colonel MacKnight, V.D., is retiring this month it is no use appointing him as Honorary Magistrate. I, therefore, request you to select another gentleman in Cachar and send your proposal through the Deputy Commissioner, Cachar.

Proposal for the appointment of Mr. Williams of Ruthna Tea Estate has been submitted to Government.

No. 2356-G., dated Silchar, 2nd June 1930.

From—The COMMISSIONER, Surma Valley and Hill Division.

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

With reference to your letter No. 53-G., dated the 17th May 1930, recommending Mr. H. S. Tooth of Jellalpore Tea Estate for appointment as an Honorary Magistrate in Cachar, I have the honour to say that the Deputy Commissioner of Cachar prefers to appoint Mr. H. E. P. Gill of Kalam Tea Estate. A copy of the Deputy Commissioner's letter No. 1241-G., dated the 23rd May 1930 is enclosed for your perusal and report whether you agree to the proposal of the Deputy-Commissioner.

2. As regards Sylhet please send your recommendations for the appointment of an Honorary Magistrate for the Bahsera Valley through the Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet.

No. 1241-G., dated Silchar, 23rd May 1930.

From—The DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, Cachar.

To—The COMMISSIONER, Surma Valley and Hill Division.

With compliments, your Memo. No. 1165-G., dated 15th May 1930 regarding appointment of a European Honorary Magistrate.

I notice that the Secretary, Surma Valley Branch of the Indian Tea Association in his letter dated the 17th May 1930 to your address, suggests the appointment of Mr. H. S. Tooth of Jellalpore Tea Estate as an Honorary Magistrate but I should prefer to appoint Mr. H. E. P. Gill of Kalam Tea Estate. He is the senior planter of that side and was for some time a member of the Silchar Local Board. His place is more central and accessible than Jellalpore which can conveniently serve only a limited area.

(71)

Dated Binnakandi, 4th June 1930.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The COMMISSIONER, Surma Valley and Hill Division, Silchar.

In reply to your letter No. 2365-G., dated the 2nd instant with reference to the question of appointing an Honorary Magistrate in the Katigora district of Cachar, enclosing copy of Memo. No. 1241-G., dated 23rd May 1930, from the Deputy Commissioner of Cachar, — suggesting the substitution of the name of Mr. H. E. P. Gill for that of Mr. Tooth. I have the honour to inform you that my file contains a letter from Mr. Gill, dated the 14th October 1929, in which he says it is not possible for him to undertake the duties of an Honorary Magistrate. With this information at their disposal my Committee suggested Mr. Tooth, who has consented to undertake the work.

With reference to para. 2 of your letter I am forwarding my Committee's recommendation for an Honorary Magistrate in the Bahisera district of Sylhet, through the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, as requested.

Dated Binnakandi, 4th June 1930.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, Sylhet.

With reference to para. 2 of letter No. 2365-G., dated the 2nd June 1930 from the Commissioner, Surma Valley and Hill Division, a copy of which I enclose for ready reference, I am directed by my Committee to recommend the name of Mr. A. G. Morris, Mazdehree Tea Estate, Naraincherra P. O., as a suitable gentleman willing to undertake the duties of Honorary Magistrate in the Bahisera district of Sylhet.

Siding Charge at Fenchuganj.

Dated Sylhet, 9th August 1929.

From—C. A. WILLIAMS, ESQ., Rutema Tea Company,
Limited, Ruthna Division.

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea
Association

If you have not received already a copy of the letter enclosed, would you be good enough to place same on the agenda for the Committee Meeting to be held on the 21st instant.

The subject matter being of some importance to Estates which ship their Teas etc., *via* Fenchuganj.

Thanking you.

INDIAN GENERAL NAVIGATION AND RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

RIVER STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

No. T. 6 6231, dated Sylhet, 27th July 1929.

From—C. A. WILLIAMS, ESQ.,
Juri Valley Representative, Indian Tea Association,
Ruthna Tea Estate.

To—S. G. MACBEY, ESQ.,
Lungla Valley Representative, Indian Tea Association,
Kannyhatti Tea Estate, Shamsheernagar P. O.

I shall appreciate a reference to my letter T. 6 4495 of May 31st and also ask you to do what you can to get the Siding charge at Fenchuganj removed.

I understand that Mr. Every of the Longai Valley managed to get the D. T. S. of Badarpur to see the unfairness of the charge and I feel certain that your representations will carry a lot of weight and gain results.

In my letter of May 31st I failed to mention that the so-called siding at Fenchuganj is not a "Siding" in the true sense of the word

and it should not be considered as one for which the Railway's customers ought to pay more. The line running to the Goods Shed at Fenchuganj was built when the Railway first came, it ran to the Goods Shed and past the old station site and was considered to be the Station line. Then when the Kusiara Bridge came along, the Coaching traffic was dealt with at the present Station site, but the Goods Shed and line running to it, was left in its original position as it was of no use to the Railway nor to its customers in any other position, and, until a few weeks ago the Railway charged nothing extra for what they now wish us to believe is an 'extra' facility put in for our mutual benefit.

I sincerely trust you will be able to push this matter forward at any early date.

— — — — —

Dated Martycherra, the 11th August 1929

From The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

To—C. A. WILLIAMS, Esq., Ruthna Tea Estate.

Siding Charge at Fenchuganj

I have to thank you for your favour of the 9th instant accompanying letter No. T. 6 6231 of 27th July 1929, from the Joint Agent of the Steamer Companies, Fenchuganj, regarding the recent imposition of a "Siding Charge" at Fenchuganj, by the Assam-Bengal Railway.

As requested this subject will be incorporated in the agenda of business before the General Committee meeting on the 21st instant.

I will be glad if you will kindly favour me with details of this extra charge and any notice the Railway Company may have issued, so that the matter can also be taken up by the Indian Tea Association representative on the Assam of Bengal Railway Local Advisory Committee.

Dated Sylhet, 13th August 1929

From—The MANAGER, Rutema Tea Company, Limited,
Ruthna Division,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea
Association.

Siding charge at Fenchuganj.

I have to thank you for your letter of the 11th instant, on the above and for placing the matter on the agenda for next General Committee Meeting.

The only information I personally received was a note from the Station Master at Juri in April last to the effect that an extra 6 pies would be charged as "Siding Charge" at Fenchuganj. I received nothing officially from the Railway Company.

The position as far as I understand is as follows :—

The Siding charge of 6 pies a maund on all outward and inward cargo to Fenchuganj Railway Station mainly affects tea and upward stores and I think I can be certain when I say that that was the reason for its imposition and also in order to close the alternative route for teas going to Calcutta. The other route is the *via* Chaldighat one and it provides a longer carry for the Assam-Bengal Railway.

The Siding Charge has been levied as from May 1st of this year but no thought of it being imposed has been mooted previous to this. The Station has been opened for about 17 years with its goods godown placed where it is because there is no room for it at the station, nor is there any approach to the station for carts, &c.

This is all the information I have, but I trust it will be found sufficient for our Indian Tea Association representative on the Assam-Bengal Railway Local Advisory Committee to bring the matter up for revision and adjustment at their next meeting.

Dated Martycherra, the 27th August 1930.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The AGENT, Assam-Bengal Railway, Chittagong.

I have been directed to make enquiries regarding the recent levy of a Siding charge of 6 pies per maund at Fenchuganj.

My Committee is informed that the Siding at Fenchuganj is not a "Siding" in the true sense of the word, and it should not be considered as one for which the Railway's customers ought to pay more. The line running to the Goods Shed at Fenchuganj was built when the Railway first came, it ran to the Goods Shed and passed the old station site and was considered to be the Station line. Then when Kusara Bridge came along, the Coaching traffic was dealt with at the present Station Site, but the Goods Shed and line running to it, was left in its original position as it was of no use to the Railway, nor to its customers in any other position.

It would appear from the foregoing that no extra facilities have been granted to the public, or extra expenditure incurred by the Railway Company that merits the imposition of this "Siding charge," and my Committee would be glad of your observations on the subject.

No. E.P. 333, dated Chittagong, the 28th November 1930.

From—The AGENT, Assam-Bengal Railway.

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association

Siding charge at Fenchuganj Station.

Your letter dated 27th August 1929. I have had enquiries made regarding the siding charge imposed on traffic booked to and via Fenchuganj Ghat station and regret I cannot agree to withdraw the charge.

Goods wagon for Fenchuganj Ghat have to be shunted from Margaon station and for the additional work and time required to place and withdraw wagons from Fenchuganj Ghat, I consider we are fully justified in making a small charge.

Katakhal Forest Reserve—Hatithal Portion.

Dated Cachar, 29th July 1929.

From—The CHAIRMAN, Hailakandi District Committee,
Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea
Association.

I have your letter notifying a meeting of the Committee on the
21st August 1929.

I should like you to place the question of Government opening
out the Katakhal Reserve—Hatithal portion, on the agenda to-
gether with copy of Mr. Gupta's letter on the subject.

Dated Cachar, 17th July 1929.

From—The MANAGER, Vernerpur Tea Estate and a
Member of the Hailakandi District Committee,
Indian Tea Association,

To—The CHAIRMAN, Hailakandi District Committee,
Indian Tea Association.

In reply to your note of the 14th instant forwarding copy of a
letter No. 437-F, of the 6th instant from the Special Relief Officer,
I beg to send you below an account of the effects of the recent
floods of my garden.

The flood was unprecedented, the like of which has not been
heard of by the living memory. It was about five feet higher than
that of 1916. The river banks were overflowed and all my
embankments were submerged. There was 16 to 18 feet of water
over my tea at several places. Only the tillahs escaped inundation.

The total area of tea went under water was 360 acres and it is
apprehended a goodly portion of this area would be lost for ever.
There would be alarming number of deaths of the bushes and all
submerged blocks. The loss of crop is estimated at about 2,000
maunds and the loss caused to the coolie lines and the staff quarters

is also enormous. Thus the total loss of this Estate by the flood is estimated at over a lac of rupees.

Although it does not form a subject of this letter, considering that the matter will be placed before the Relief Officer, who may be pleased to consider about giving us some sort of relief. I beg to renew our prayer to the Government of throwing open the Katakhail Reserve and to grant us the lands we had applied for. In this connection, it would not be out of place to mention that there had been a proposal of throwing open lands. The writer, Mr. Crawford of Lallacherra, and several other planters accompanied the Deputy Commissioner to the Reserve in the year 1917 if I remember aright, to see the place. It had been found that the lands were most suitable for Tea cultivation and there was very little timber on them, and as such the Forest Department could not get any decent revenue out of the same. I would request you, as the Chairman of our District Committee, kindly to take the matter seriously and to exert your special efforts to bring about a successful issue of the matter. You, being in the Council, have the opportunity of moving the Government if that is considered necessary to give a very *favourable consideration* to the matter. I hope you will kindly leave no stone unturned to thrash the matter out

Dated Martycherra, 27th August 1929

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The COMMISSIONER, Surma Valley and Hill Division

I have been directed by my Committee to put forward the following for your consideration

During the recent floods 2,000 acres of what was perhaps the highest yielding tea in the Surma Valley, was entirely destroyed, in the Hailakandi district.

The Estates concerned have suffered considerably in other ways as well—damage to buildings, loss of crop, etc., and are faced with financial embarrasment for sometime to come.

In view of this and to enable those Estates to replace the areas lost, it has been suggested Government should be approached to release the Hatithal portion of the Katakhal Forest Reserve.

The Estates which have suffered most, adjoin this reserve and areas, if granted, could be planted out, and so provide remunerative employment for the labour forces concerned.

As this question is of vital importance to the Estates aforesaid, my Committee would be grateful to have your co-operation and sympathetic representation to your Government.

No. 1329-R., dated Silchar, 25th April 1930.

From—The COMMISSIONER, Surma Valley and Hill Division,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I have the honour to refer to your letter dated the 27th August 1929, regarding a proposal for disforestation of the Hatithal portion of the Katakhal Reserve, and to forward a copy of letter No. I 52, dated the 28th March 1930, with enclosure, from the Conservator of Forests, Western Circle, who was consulted. I have also consulted the Deputy Commissioner, Cachar, who is of opinion that it would not be expedient to open out any of the area for tea gardens considering the preparations made by the forest department and the extensive settlement of forest villagers in the area.

I agree with the Conservator and Deputy Commissioner and am not prepared to move Government for disforestation of the Hatithal portion of the Reserve.

Copy of letter No. I 52, dated the 28th March 1930, from A. C. W. Mitrey, Esq., Offg. Conservator of Forests, Western Circle, Assam, to the Commissioner, Surma Valley and Hill Division.

In reply your 741-R. of 7th March 1930, I have the honour to put forward my views regarding the question of disforestation of the Hatithal in favour of certain Tea Companies.

As will be seen from the accompanying map there are seven forest villages, occupying about 1,200 bighas, scattered about in the actual Bil, apart from others situated on the edge, and that there are about 16,800 bighas of unsettled Bil and Tilah.

It is the policy of the Department gradually to settle most of the Bil, but not the Tilahs, which contain valuable forest and to this end a road, not shown on the map, is under construction passing through the Thal and connecting the forest centres of Loharband and Lallacherra. The road is complete except for a central portion in the Bil, where there was some trouble about alignment, but it should be open for thorough motor traffic next cold weather.

No particular portions of the Thal have been applied for and it is doubtful if the applicants have done any exploration there, because no one had been seen in the forest up to the time of my visit in January last except a party of Europeans, who motored as far as was possible along the new forest road and then turned round and went back. The pick of the Bil has been taken up by the Forest Villagers who are settled on the higher portions, but presumably some of the lower portions could be made fit by draining to be planted with Tea, though as elsewhere the bushes would be killed out eventually by the Bil sinking.

It is clear that any disforestation of the Thal will dislocate our plans as regards future operations in this area, as it is improbable that scattered forest villages and tea gardens will be able to exist in harmony owing to labour and other questions, and the end would probably have to be disforested on a larger scale than is at present under consideration. The villagers are required by the Department to provide labour for the construction of roads and paths as prescribed under Mr. Owden's working scheme, and for the maintenance and extension of the plantations round Lallacherra.

The block, consisting of the whole area which drains into Lallacherra, has been leased out to Lalla Ratan Chand for 10 years from January 1st 1928. This, our most enterprising Timber Trader, had been working here before and was given a monopoly over the Block for 10 years by Mr. Owden, who considered that he was best fitted to work properly in this particularly valuable Block. Mr. Owden's object in arranging to grant leases for such a long period was to encourage Block-holders to spend money in making

streams floatable. Lalla Ratan Chand has carried out some fairly extensive river-training operations with a view to future profits, and will have to be compensated if it is considered that disforestation of part of his block is permissible under the terms of the lease.

This brings me to the principal objection to disforesting any portion of the Thal—namely, the permanent decline in value of the forests which drain through the Bil.

Whatever arrangements may be come to, or decisions obtained in Court, the fact remains, as you are probably well aware, that there is nearly always friction between Planters and such Timber Traders as have to float or cart down or over rights-of-way through Estates, and there are cases in the Surma Valley where we cannot sell forest produce, or only sell at a greatly reduced price, because the traders anticipate interference from garden managers. No one working on the same scale as Lalla Ratan Chand, who employed 22 dragging elephants last year and expects to recruit 8 more this rains, will consent to expose his business to the loss that can be caused by elephants or timber rafts being held up under some pretext or others. It is not suggested that the fault is all on one side, as no manager can be expected to view with indifference elephants taking short cuts through his garden, or unattended rafts piling themselves up against his bridges, but whoever may be in the right or the wrong it is a fact that friction is always to be apprehended. The opening out of Tea gardens in the Hathithal would reduce the value of the forests in the hinterland by at least 50%.

I am forced to the conclusion that, if Government did not consider the time opportune for disforestation in 1913 I was member of the Committee which visited the Thal with the Deputy Commissioner, when the Bil was not settled with Forest Villagers and when the Reserves had not been divided up into Blocks let out on long leases, the time is still less opportune now, when the Bil is being opened out by cultivators, whose labour is essential for carrying out the Forest Programme, and when more extensive timber extraction is expected to follow the preparatory rivertraining that has been done during the last few years.

Income Tax on Commission.

Dated Martycherra, 17th November 1929.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

To—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

I am directed by my Committee to bring to your notice and to ask for your favourable consideration of the request that the Government might be moved:—

To grant exemption to Tea Planters from Income Tax on that proportion of Commission accruing while on leave equivalent to the proportion of the year spent by the applicant out of India.

Where consolidated pay is drawn, full exemption is granted for the period of absence from India, but whereas planters are remunerated partly by salary and partly by Commission, the latter is taxed in full which by comparison is unfair.

No. 1569-O., dated Calcutta, 2nd December 1929

From—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association.

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

Income Tax on Planters' Commission.

I am directed by the Committee to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 17th November 1929 in which you suggest that they might consider the question of moving the Government of India to grant exemption to tea planters from income tax on that proportion of their commission accruing while on leave, which is equivalent to the proportion of the year spent out of India by the applicant.

In reply the Committee instruct me to draw your kind attention to Section 4 D of the Income Tax Act 1922 which reads as follows:—

“Save as hereinafter provided, this Act shall apply to all income, profit or gains, as described in Section 6, from whatever source derived, *accruing or arising*, or

received in British India, or deemed under the provisions of this Act to accrue, or arise, or to be received in British India."

As you will see from the above section that the law on the subject of income tax on commission is beyond argument the Committee regret they cannot see their way to move the Government of India in the manner you suggest.

Planting Constituency: Electoral Roll.

Dated Marttycherra, 17th November 1929.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch Indian Tea Association.

To—The COMMISSIONER, Surma Valley and Hill Division.

The General Committee of the Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association, have directed me to approach you regarding the present regulations governing the making up of the above roll. It would appear that the yearly revision in at least one district has not proved efficacious, although the requirements called for from the District Committee Chairman were complied with.

While granting that the annual revision of the roll, if efficiently carried out, tends to eliminate omissions it is felt that to cope with the frequent changes in personnel on tea estates, due to furlough and transfers, that it would simplify matters if the votes could be held by the Superintendent, Manager, Engineer, etc., in their position as such. This would ensure the representation of every garden irrespective of the individuals who may hold these posts at the time of any election, which would appear to carry out the object of the Electoral Regulations.

No. 434-G, dated Silchar, 11th December 1929.

From—The COMMISSIONER, Surma Valley and Hill Division.

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 17th November 1929, regarding the Planting Constituency

Electoral Roll, and to say that as the Electoral Rules now stand, an elector in a planting constituency must be enrolled by name. In order to enable me to judge whether there are sufficient grounds for moving Government to modify the rules, I shall be obliged if you will furnish me with details of the difficulties met with in the yearly revision of the roll to which you have referred in the second para of your letter.

Surma Valley Branch Rules.

Dated Martycherra, 9th December 1930

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

To—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

As the appointment of Mr. L. Stuart Relfey to the Secretaryship of the Planting Members of the Assam Legislative Council will date from 1st January 1930, this Branch from that date will assume liability to the extent of Rs. 375-5-4 per month plus a one-third share of his out-of-pocket expenses in connection with his duties in the above capacity.

2. The present annual subscription of one and a half annas per acre under tea cultivation by Companies and concerns who subscribe to the general funds of the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, and of two and a half annas per acre by those who do not so subscribe, will be insufficient to meet the expenses of the Branch.

3. At the Meeting of the General Committee held on 13th November last the opportunity was taken to discuss the question, and it was agreed that the annual subscriptions should be raised one anna per acre for those Companies and Concerns who subscribe to the general funds of the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, and those Companies and Concerns who do not subscribe should remain at two and a half annas per acre.

All the Indian owned and managed concerns are under the latter category, and it was felt that raising the subscription for such concerns might have a deterrent effect on possible prospective members.

4. Rule 4 *a* which reads:—

The funds of the Branch shall be provided by an annual subscription of one and a half anna per acre under tea cultivation by those companies, or concerns, who subscribe to the general fund of the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, and a subscription of two and a half annas per acre by those who do not so subscribe. will now read:—

"4. *a*). The funds of the Branch shall be provided by an annual subscription of two and a half annas per acre under tea cultivation."

5. I am to ask for your favourable consideration and approval for this amendment.

No. 9-O., dated Calcutta, the 6th January 1930.

From—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association.

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

*Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association - Rule 4 *a*
Membership subscription.*

I am directed by the Committee to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 9th December 1929 and to inform you that in the circumstances explained in your letter under acknowledgment my approve of Rule 4 *a* of the Rules of your Association being amended to read as follows:—

"The funds of the Branch shall be provided by an annual subscription of two and a half annas per acre under tea cultivation."

Exemption of Tea Companies Provident Funds from payment of Income-tax.

Dated Binnakandy, the 21st May 1930.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

To—The COMMISSIONER of Income Tax, Assam, Shillong.

I am directed by the General Committee of this Branch of the Association to address you on the subject of exemption of all tea

Companies Provident Funds, from payment of Income Tax on contributions made.

In Chapter IXA 58A para. of a bill passed by the Indian Legislature in 1929 to amend the Indian Income Tax Act, 1922: "A recognised provident fund means a provident fund which has been and continues to be recognised by the Commissioner in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter."

My Committee, while recognising the fact that Tea Company Provident Funds being run on by a variety of concerns, though the general principle is the same, may not comply with all the rules, consider that if the Act be administered in the spirit in which it was intended, exemption can be claimed, and therefore ask you to recognise all contributions to bonafide provident funds administered by Managing Agents of Tea Companies as exempt from payment of Income Tax.

Dated Silchar, 3rd April 1930.

From —HEM CHANDRA DUTT, Esq., B.L., Advocate.

To —P. E. ASCROFT, Esq., Manager, Alyn Tea Estate.

By Act XII of 1929 contribution to private Provident Fund has been exempted from tax. But in that Act there is further provision that the Provident Fund must be recognised by the Commissioner before its contribution is exempted. Please take up the matter through the Tea Association to get recognition of the Provident Funds to which the Planters subscribe.

No. 1393 A. 40 of 1930-31, dated Shillong, 6th June 1930.

From —The ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER of Income-Tax,
Assam.

To —The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea
Association.

Tea Companies Provident Funds Contributions to Exemption of.

Reference your letter No. 60-G, dated 21st May 1930.

I am directed by the Commissioner of Income Tax, to inform you that it is not possible to grant a general exemption from

us, but I am convinced that until we adopt a more frugal policy and entirely eliminate the political side of our work, we will get no new members and possibly lose some of the existing ones."

Dated Binnakandi, 22nd April 1930.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

To—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

Membership of the Indian Tea Association: Indian-owned gardens.

In reply to your letter No. 628-O., dated the 17th instant enclosing copy of a letter received from a Calcutta Agency house on the above subject, I enclose a statement showing my record of the Indian owned Concerns in the Surma Valley and those who are members of this Association. As you will see from this, efforts to obtain the majority as members have not so far met with any great success.

The reason formerly given by a great many for not joining the Branch was their objection to signing the Labour Rules. Since this is no longer compulsory, I have again circulated all these Concerns with the result that 3 new members have joined, or promised to do so; other concerns have sent for copies of the Rules of the Branch and made enquiries as to the benefits to be derived from joining. One Indian member, who is anxious for a seat on the General Committee, is at present canvassing the various Proprietors of General Committee having promised to allot a special seat for Indian owned concerns in the event of 75% joining; this I have no doubt they will be pleased to allot, in the event of any reasonable number paying subscriptions.

As to the views expressed in the letter of which you sent me a copy, I am circulating copies of this for consideration by members of the General Committee of this Branch.

List of Indian-owned Tea Concerns in the Surma Valley Non-members to the Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association who were asked if they wish to become members of the Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

Garden or Company.	Area under tea acres.	
Jheerighat Native Tea Co., Ltd.	420	Placed the matter before Directors.
Madoora Tea Estate	... 302	No reply.
Neabund Tea Co.	... 460	Do.
Rahmannugger Tea Estate	... ...	Do.
Jalalnagar	... ...
Madanpore	... ...	} 563 Placed the matter before the Board meeting.
Siddharpur	... ...
Bijoya Tea Estate	... 305	No reply.
Aylabari Tea Estate	... 310	Made enquiries regarding Rules of the Branch.
Kalinagar Tea Estate	... 525½	Will join on Director's approval.
Birapani Tea Co., Ltd.	... 110	No reply.
Chicknagool Tea Estate	... 225	Do.
Dibbarpore Tea Co., Ltd.	... 300	Do.
Duckingole Tea Estate	... 324	Do.
Danganagar Tea Estate	... 130	Do.
Barkandi Tea Estate	... 175	Do.
Indeswar Tea & Trading Co. ...	955	Made enquiries regarding Rules of the Branch.

List of Indian-owned Tea Concerns in the Surma Valley Not members to the Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association, who were asked if they wish to become members of the Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association—contd.

Garden or Company.	Area under tea acres.	
Baikunthapur Tea Estate ...	264	Do. do.
Madlabpur Tea Estate ...	150	Do. do.
Mantala Tea Estate ...	350	Do. do.
Chhotalekha Tea Estate ...	310	No reply.
Kalisashan Tea Estate ...	...	Do.
Kalikabari Tea Estate ...	375	Do.
Mahommedpur Tea Estate ...	400	Do.
Momincherra Tea Estate ...	250	Do.
Munaicherra Tea Estate ...	650	Do.
Rungicherra Tea Estate ...		
Ramani Krishna Tea Estate ...	150	Do.
Sribari Tea Estate ...	291	Has joined.
Star Tea Estate ...	120	Not joined, but promised.
Bahadurpur Tea Estate ...	200	No reply
Googalicherra Tea Estate ...	310	Do.
Languacherra Tea Estate ...	300	Do.
Lohar Valley Tea Co. ...	1,000	Not willing to join
TOTAL ...	10,173½	

*List of Indian-owned Tea concerns in the Surma Valley Members
of the Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association*

Garden or Company.			Area under tea.
Raopabally Tea Estate	...	...	199
Annanagar Tea Estate	...	...	92½
Gobindpur Tea Estate	...	...	600
Endigool and Binodini Tea Estate	...	...	628
Dunlookmara Tea Estate	...	...	470
Arpin Tea Estate	...	...	212
Vernerpur Tea Estate	...	...	615
Sabazpore Tea Estate	...	...	280
Dwarbund Tea Estate	...	...	116½
Catacherra Tea Estate	...	...	280
Total			3,723½

Wireless Station in Silchar.

No. 61-G, dated Binnakandi, the 22nd May 1930.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The CHIEF SECRETARY to the Government of Assam,
Shillong

I am directed by the General Committee of this Branch Association to address you on the subject of a Wireless Station in Silchar to which the Commissioner of the Division promised to bring to the notice of Government on representations made subsequent to the dislocation of telegraph and railway communications in the floods of last year. The urgency for such a station has again been felt when communication with Chittagong was interrupted by the action of revolutionaries. My Committee further direct me to suggest that

Government examine the possibility of attaching the installation to the Head quarters of the Surma Valley Light Horse in Silchar, where an effective control could be maintained by the permanent staff.

Letter No. 11052-P. & T., dated Shillong, the 2nd June 1930

From—The SECRETARY, to the Government of Assam,
Public Works Department, Post and Telegraph
Branch.

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea
Association.

Wireless Station in Silchar.

With reference to the correspondence ending with your letter No. 61-G., dated the 22nd May 1930, I am directed to say that His Excellency in Council regrets that the project both in initial and recurring charges is too expensive to be entertained.

Hail Insurance Assessment Fees.

The revised scale of Hail Insurance Assessment fees agreed down in the proceedings of a Meeting of the General Committee, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, held on the 23rd March 1930, viz:—

Area damaged by Hail.	Rupees.
Up to 200 acres	48 (minimum for)
Exceeding 200 and not over 300 acres ...	72 ..
" 300 " " " 400 " 	96 ..
" 400 " " " 500 " 	120 ..
For each additional 100 acres surveyed beyond 500 acres	16 ..

Labour Rules Agreement.MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH ENTICEMENT OF
LABOUR FROM TEA GARDENS AND OTHER CONCERNS IN THE
BRAHMAPOOTRA VALLEY AND SURMA VALLEY.

The proprietors or accredited representatives of the several companies or concerns who have signed copies of this agreement do and each of them doth by these presents mutually bind the said companies and concerns to abide by the following Rules and Provisions which are aimed at discouraging and preventing the enticement, harbouring, detention or employment hereafter called "offences") of garden or other coolies without the consent of the companies and concerns by or for whom such coolies may have been imported recruited or employed and at prescribing certain fines or penalties by way of damages for infringement of such Rules and Provisions, which Rules and Provisions are framed and subscribed on the assurance or assumption that all Proprietors, Boards of Directors, and Managing or other Agents or Secretaries of the said companies and concerns may be depended on to enforce due compliance with all awards made in pursuance of such Rules and Provisions, their active support in that behalf being deemed essential to the same being successfully carried out.

For the purposes of this agreement the following definitions will obtain:—

1. *Offence*.—A person is guilty of an offence against these rules who employs or harbours or entices any coolie who is claimable, under these rules, by another concern.
2. *Defaulter* means any free coolie who has absconded while under *bona fide* advances to his concern or a coolie recruited by one concern who has proceeded direct from the recruiting district to another concern without reporting to, and obtaining the sanction of, the first concern.
- (3) *Bona fide* advances mean advances made by a concern or its recognised agents and do not include shop-keeper's bills or line debts.
- (4) *To employ and/or employment* shall include special contract work and/or work under contractors engaged by and/or on the concern.

It is agreed that—

1. All coolies living within the area of a concern's grant premises are to be considered coolies of such concern whether regularly employed or not, but coolies living in the vicinity of a concern and outside its boundaries shall not be considered as coolies of such concern unless under agreement to the concern.

2. No subscriber to these rules shall employ directly or indirectly or harbour or detain any coolie whether under contract or not) who has been imported by another concern, within the period of 3 years after importation, it being understood, however, that no claim under this rule shall be made or entertained unless duly formulated within two calendar years after the coolie has left the importing concern.

3. No subscriber to these rules shall employ directly or indirectly or harbour or detain any coolie other than mentioned in Rule 2 who may be under Act XIII agreement to another concern as shown by such concern's Cash and Agreement Books, it being understood, however, that no claim under this rule shall be made or entertained unless duly formulated within two calendar years after the coolie has left the concern to which he was under contract.

4. No subscriber to these rules shall employ directly or indirectly or harbour or detain a coolie who is a defaulter to another concern, it being understood, however, that no claim under this rule shall be made or entertained unless duly formulated within two calendar years after such coolie has defaulted.

5. No subscriber to these rules shall directly or indirectly entice or endeavour to entice any coolies employed on another concern from such employment.

6. No subscriber to these rules shall employ directly or indirectly or harbour or detain any coolie who has been imported *bona fide* by him and has been employed as a coolie and or as a recruiter, but who, it is proved, was either originally imported, or employed under Act XIII agreement, or employed as a free coolie by another concern.

Should any coolie be employed, harboured or detained under the above circumstances, no proceedings shall be taken under Rules 2, 3 and 4, but the coolie and his or her wife, husband, child or

children shall be claimed under this rule, on tender of the recruiting expenses as provided hereunder in Rule 8.

No claim shall lie in any case where such coolie has been employed as a recruiter in respect of any coolie or coolies so recruited other than the wife or husband, child or children of the recruiting coolie as the case may be.

No claim shall lie in any case under this rule unless made within two years from the time such coolie left the claiming concern.

7. The respective penalties for breaches of the foregoing Rules No. 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 shall not exceed the maximum penalties respectively laid down for breaches of these respective rules in the Schedule hereto. Such sum or sums as may be awarded under this Schedule shall be in addition to any other sum properly under Rule 8 as recruiting expenses.

8. In all cases in which under these Rules save as hereafter provided in cases coming under the provisions of Rule 6 coolies are properly claimable from one concern by another and are returned to the claiming concern the claiming concern shall not be responsible to pay the concern from which such coolies return any sums of money advanced or any bonuses or other like sums paid by such latter concern to such coolies. In cases of claims under Rule 6, where the recruiting coolie and his or her wife, husband, child or children are returned to the claiming concern the claiming concern shall be liable to pay the actual recruiting expenses paid by the concern from which such coolies are claimed in respect of such coolies.

9. Every complaint as to the alleged infringement of the foregoing rules or as to an offence of the kind or nature in such rules indicated shall be in writing signed by the superintendent or Manager in charge who is directly responsible to the Agents or Proprietors of the complaint concern and addressed and delivered or sent to the like Superintendent or Manager of the concern complained against and every such complaint shall state:

- 1) In the case of an alleged infringement of either Rules 2, 3, 4 or 6 as above, such of the following particulars as are applicable to the particular case:—
 - a) All particulars necessary for the identification of the coolies who are the subject matter of the complaint.

- (b) The period, if any, of the coolie's non-exercised service compulsory or otherwise :

Such complaint shall also contain a statement that in the event of the non-return of the coolies the following sums will be claimed, viz. :

- (c) The amount of penalty.
(d) The cost of importing and recruiting the coolies when claimed under Rule 2.
(e) The amount of advances outstanding when claimed under Rules 3 and 4.

- (2) In the case of an alleged infringement of Rule 5 the grounds which it is alleged constitute the alleged offence.

10. The recipient of any such complaint within three days from the receipt thereof, shall, if the complaint be made under Rules 2, 3 or 4 hereof, and in the event of his not repudiating the same either—

- (a) Pay or remit or settle the amount claimed in which case he may retain the coolie, or
(b) Forthwith eject in the presence of complainant's representative if so required) such coolie with all his belongings from his concern.

11. If the complaint be made under 6, and in the event of his not repudiating the same he shall forthwith eject in the presence of complainant's representative if so required) such coolie with his or her wife, husband, child or children and all his belongings from his concern.

12. In the event of the recipient of any such complaint (whether made under Rules 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6) repudiating responsibility thereof—

- (c) He shall deliver or send to the complainant a written statement recording the grounds on which he disavows liability in the whole or in part, as the case may be, provided that if he adopts this course his liability

shall not be affected should the coolies or any of them abscond before final award or payment thereof.

14. If the receipt of any such complaint should fail or neglect to take either of these courses, he shall stand liable for the full amount of the claim and/or penalties provided by the rules as the case may be.

15. If the dispute be not otherwise adjusted, the complainant may send—

a) to the Secretary of the Assam Branch:—

i) when the complainant concern and the concern complained against are both in the Brahmaputra Valley;

ii) when the complainant concern is in the Surma Valley and the concern complained against is in the Brahmaputra Valley;

b) to the Secretary of the Surma Valley Branch:—

i) when the complainant concern and the concern complained against are both in the Surma Valley;

ii) when the complainant concern is in the Brahmaputra Valley and the concern complained against is in the Surma Valley.

Under registered post, a full copy of his complaint and of the other side's statement to be adjudicated upon by a Court of Arbitration to be constituted in accordance with the following Rules and Bye-Laws, 1921:—

RULES FOR ARBITRATIONS

a) The Court shall be constituted by the Branch Committee on receipt of the papers which must contain the full complaint as set out in Rule 9

b) The Court shall consist of three Arbitrators who shall be selected by the Branch Committee from any recognised and impartial tea planters or local representatives of concerns other than tea concerns who are willing to serve.

The Court appointed as aforesaid shall elect their own Chairman.

- 5 The Court may call for such evidence whether oral or documentary as they require to enable them to deal with any matter coming before them, and the parties to the arbitration or their agents or representatives shall if required submit to examination on oath or affirmation in relation to the matters in dispute and shall produce before the Court all books, papers, accounts or other documents in their possession or power which may be required or called for and all other things which the Court may require.

The decision of the majority of the Court shall be taken as the decision of the Court.

- 6 The names of the arbitrators constituting the Court shall not be ordinarily disclosed to the parties nor shall the parties be entitled to such information as of right but the whole question shall be in the absolute discretion of the Branch Committee.
- 7 The non-disclosure of the said names shall not in any case affect the validity of the proceedings or any Award made therein nor afford any ground for objection to the filing of the Award.
- 8 If any Arbitrator declines or fails to act or dies or becomes incapable of acting the Branch Committee may substitute a new arbitrator in his place and the Court so re-constituted shall proceed with the arbitration with liberty to act on the record of the proceedings as then existing if any or to commence the arbitration *de novo*, as they may decide.
- 9 The Court may at their own instance before making their final Award and at the expense of the parties consult refer to and act on the advice recommendations or suggestions of any two impartial tea planters or local representatives of concerns other than tea concerns not being in any way interested in or connected with either concern involved in the dispute.

- (f) The Court may also at the like expense of the parties consult and take the advice of Solicitors or Counsel upon any question of law, evidence, practice or procedure arising in the course of the reference, or as to the form and nature of their Award.
- (k) The Court shall make their Award in writing within 30 days from the time of entering upon the reference or within such extended time as they may notify. Such Award shall be signed by the Court and when completed a copy shall be sent by them to the Branch Committee who shall forward a copy to each of the parties interested.
- (l) The parties shall in all matters abide by and obey the Award which shall be binding on the parties and their respective representatives.
- (m) Alteration in the constitution of any Firm, Company or Concern being a party to the arbitration either by resignation, death or in any other manner either before or after making the award shall not operate as a revocation of the submission or invalidate any proceedings on the arbitration or any award.
- (n) Neither of the parties shall bring or prosecute any suit or proceedings whatever against the Court or any member thereof for and in respect of the matters in dispute or any of them nor any such suit or proceedings against the other party except for the purpose of enforcing the Award.
- (o) The decision of the Court shall be final. All procedure not otherwise hereby provided for shall be regulated by the Court and no objection shall be taken or entertained by reason of any irregularity in procedure.
- (p) The Court shall have power to award a sum to cover costs and expenses of any party to the arbitration and to direct by and to whom the same shall be paid.

(g) Subject as aforesaid the Court shall not by their decision or award impose larger sums by way of damages than those prescribed according to the scale and under the provisions in the Schedule hereof.

15. After constitution of the Court as aforesaid the Branch Committee shall give notice by registered post to both parties of the place and date and time when and where the dispute will be investigated and either party may appear in person or by any tea garden Superintendent or Manager or by the local representative of a concern other than a tea concern to conduct his case but neither side shall be at liberty to be represented by counsel, attorney or any legal adviser.

16. Upon receipt of such notice the concern complained against shall have the right to forward to the Secretary a further copy of his written statement of the grounds upon which liability is disputed.

17. Failing satisfactory settlement or compliance with an award, by the Superintendent or Manager of the concern involved the case first shall be reported for action to the Proprietors, Boards or Agents concerned. If no satisfactory action is taken within sixty days after such report by the Proprietors, Boards or Agents of the concern involved, the other party shall be at liberty to take such steps to enforce his Award under the Civil Procedure Code or otherwise as may be open to him.

18. In the case of a Company or private concern being subject to these Rules, it is understood that the same apply to all branches of the said company or private concern, whether devoted to the culture of tea or other procedure or to other industrial pursuits.

19. These provisions shall be binding on any other tea company or concern on whose behalf these presents or a copy thereof be hereafter signed by its proprietor or accredited representative.

20. This agreement shall continue until terminated by six calendar months' notice in writing, such notice to be addressed to the Secretary, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

Date

THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO.

1. For an offence against Rule 2 the penalty will be a maximum sum of Rs. 300 for each coolie for the first offence, and of Rs. 500 for each coolie for a second or subsequent offence, such penalty to be in addition to any sum awarded by way of damages under Clause 4 hereof.
2. For an offence against Rule 3 the penalty will be a maximum sum of Rs. 200 for each coolie for the first offence and of Rs. 300 for each coolie for a second or subsequent offence, such penalty to be in addition to any sum awarded by way of damages under Clause 4 hereof.
3. For an offence affecting any coolie who is a defaulter to another concern as provided under Rule 4, the penalty will be Rs. 50 for each coolie in addition to payment of all *bona fide* advances shown against such coolie in the concern books and such sum as may be awarded by way of damages under Clause 4 hereof.
4. For an offence against Rule 5 the penalty will be a maximum sum of Rs. 500 for the first offence and of Rs. 1,000 for a second or subsequent offence, irrespective of any penalties which may have been previously enforced under Rules 2, 3 and 4.
5. For failure to comply with the terms of Rule 6 the penalty will be a maximum sum of Rs. 1,000 for each offence.

List of signatories to the Brahmaputra and Surma Valley Labour Bill.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.	ACRES.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Achabam Tea Co., Ltd. ...	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	I.	257	
Ahmody Tea Estate ...	B. H. Ahmed ...	...	176	
All-India Tea and Trading Co., Ltd.	.....	...	.....	302
Allynugger Tea Co., Ltd. ...	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	I. & L.	.....	2950
Alyne-Pathemara Tea Co. Ltd.	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	42
Amalgamated Tea Estate Co., Ltd.	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	I.	5,410	33
Amarnagar Tea Estate ...	Crozier's Agency, Ltd.	...	.....	10
Amgoorie Tea Estates, Ltd.	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	I.	2,320	
Amluckie Tea Co., Ltd. ...	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	I.	871	
Amo Tea Co., Ltd. ...	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	I. & L.	.....	1,337
Anandabag Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Gillanders, Arbuthnot & Co.	I	80	
Anglo-American Direct Tea Trading Co., Ltd.	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	I	3,418	73
Annapurna Tea Co., Ltd. ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	.....	25
Appin Tea Estate ...	N. C. Day ...	I.	.....	46
Areuttipore Tea Co., Ltd. ...	J. Mackinnon & Co.	I.	.....	88
Aryan Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Hope & Co.	...	.....	35
Assam Co., Ltd. ...	Kilburn & Co. ...	I.	12,700	
Assam Doars Tea Co., Ltd. (Orangajuli).	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	I. & L.	200	
Assam Estates, Ltd. ...	Macneill & Co.	I.	845	
Assam Frontier Tea Co., Ltd.	S. W. & Co. ...	I.	8,533	
Assam Frontier Tea Seed Syndicate	S. W. & Co. ...	...	.....	70
Assam Indigo, Ltd. ...	Mrs. L. G. Tun- stall.	...	.....
Assam Proper Tea Co., Ltd.	Chatterjee, Ganguli & Co.	I.	7	
* Assam Ryss. & Trading Co., Ltd.	Agent & General Manager.	I.	1000	

* Includes Bogapani Tea Estate.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACRLAGL.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Assam Syihet Tea Co., Ltd.	Industrial Agency, Ltd.	...	...	105
Assam United Tea Co., Ltd.	A. Y. & Co., Ltd.	L.	3,572	1,156
Attuljee Tea Estate	J. Mackinnon & Co.	L.	706	
Atturkhat Tea Co., Ltd.	W. M. & Co.	L.	2,396	
Atuljee Tea Estate	National Trading Syndicate	...	...
Bahadur Tea Co., Ltd.	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	L.	3,290	
Bahijan Tea Co., Ltd.	Maenel & Co.	L.	967	
Bahijon Tea Co., Ltd.	P. D. & Co., Ltd.	L.	763	
Bahon Tea Estate	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	200	
Bahjan Tea Co., Ltd.	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	L.	872	
Bahma & Bahjan Tea Concern.	Bahma, Lawrie & Co., Ltd.	...	312	
Bahma Tea Estate	Bahma T. Coy.	...	205	
Balabhera Tea Co., Ltd.	J. S. & Co.	L.	...	948
Balagan Tea Co., Ltd.	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	L.	1,070	
Banmah Gosabari Tea Estate.	J. p. Chhat.	L.	420	
*Baraguna Tea Estate	G. W. & Co.	...	...
Barasua (Sylhet) Tea Co., Ltd.	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	L.	...	1,066
Barampur Tea Estate	K. Ahmed.	...	...
Barbar Tea and Timber Co., Ltd.	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	...	270	
Barung Tea Co., Ltd.	W. M. & Co.	L.	1,683	
Baruree Tea Estate	...	...	...
Baruree Tea Estate	...	...	...	69
Basmatia Tea Co., Ltd.	A. Y. & Co., Ltd.	L.	321	
Bateli Tea Co., Ltd.	W. M. & Co.	L.	400	
Bhadmi Tea Co., Ltd.	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	L.	765	
Bhadur Tea Co., Ltd.	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	L.	1,070	

*Is a division of the Gour Nitye Tea Co., Ltd.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Sanku Valley.
Belsiri and Chardwar Tea Estates, Ltd.	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	766	
Bengal Tea Co., Ltd.	Bengal Tea Co.	...	200	
Bengal United Tea Co., Ltd.	J. S. & Co.	I.	1,088	174
Betjan Tea Co., Ltd.	G. A. & Co.	I.	435	
*Bettybari Tea Co., Ltd.	(See note below)	...	...
Bharat Samiti, Ltd.	G. C. Datt	...	...
Bhartia Tea and Seed Estate Co., Ltd.	S. H. Bhartia	...	...
Bhootia Chang Tea Co., Ltd.	Barry & Co.	I.	884	
Bhubandhar Tea Co., Ltd.	Macneil & Co.	I.	...	652
Bhubrighat Tea Co., Ltd.	B. J. Lamb	I.	...	960
Bhuyankhat Tea Estate	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	...	...
Bidyanagar Tea Estate	Martin & Co.	I.	...	1,578
Bijlijan Tea Estate	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	...	50	
Binapani Tea Estate	Hope & Co.	...	...
Birkmyre Bros. (Kamrup Jute Cultivation)	...	...	...
Bishnath Tea Co., Ltd.	W. M. & Co.	I.	3,704	
Bogabagh Tea Co., Ltd.	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	408	
Bogidholla Tea Estate	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	351	
Bokakhat Tea Co., Ltd.	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	487	
Borahari Tea Estate	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	...
Borahi Tea Co., Ltd.	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	I.	411	
Borasoli Tea Co., Ltd.	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	...	...
Borbheel Tea Co., Ltd.	W. M. & Co.	I.	608	
Brobhetta Tea Estate	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	...	...
Bodubi Tea Co., Ltd.	W. M. & Co.	I.	1,206	
Borelli Tea Co., Ltd.	W. M. & Co.	I.	2,113	

Is merged in the Tezporo Tea Co., Ltd.

NAME.	Colony Agents.	Where grown		Area (acres).
		Chin or London or both.	Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Burhat Tea Co., Ltd.	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	L.	1,611	
Burhara Assam Tea Co., Ltd.	Burton & Co.	L.	.....
Burhan Tea Co., Ltd.	W. M. & Co.	L.	1,062	
Burmah Tea Co., Ltd.	McLeod & Co.	L.	470	
Burmah Tea Co., Ltd.	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	L & L.	.....	879
Bow Tea Co., Ltd.	W. M. & Co.	L.	743	
Burpee Tea Co., Ltd.	Varley & Co.	.....	300	
Burra Tea Co., Ltd.	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	.....	.....
Burubur Tea Co., Ltd.	W. M. & Co.	L.	57	
Burubur Tea Estate	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	L.	270	
Burung Tea Estate	National Agency Co., Ltd.	.....	165	
Bussabur Tea Estate	National Agency Co., Ltd.	.....	180	
Buxy Chungur Tea Estates, Ltd.	Burton & Co.	L.	2,034	
Brahmaputra Tea Co., Ltd.	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	L.	4,842	
Brahmaputra Himalaya Tea Co., Ltd.	Martin & Co.	.....	370	
British Assam Tea Co., Ltd.	McLeod & Co.	L.	1,392	
British Indian Tea Co., Ltd.	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	L.	190	198
British India Tea Co., Ltd.	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	L.	.....	100
British Beta Tea Co., Ltd.	S. W. & Co.	L.	2,700	
Budma Tea Estate	McLeod & Co.	L.	314	
Budhar Tea & Timber Co., Ltd.	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	L.	270	
Budhota Tea Estate	.....	.....	.....	206
Burmahar Tea Estate	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	.....	55	
Cabbar & Doons Tea Co., Ltd.	J. S. & Co.	L.	.....	2,747
Cachar Native Joint Stock Co., Ltd.	B. A. Gupta, Manager	.....	.....	1,180
Central Cachar Tea Co., Ltd.	J. S. & Co.	L.	.....	1,460

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACRES Brahmaputra Valley.	ACRES Sikkim Valley.
Chandpore Tea Co., Ltd.	Berry & Co.	L.	...	76
Chandmari Tea Estate	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	140	...
Chandpore Tea Co., Ltd.	J. S. & Co.	I.	...	76
Chapani Tea Estate	...	...	50	...
Chapmullah Tea Estate	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	268	...
Charburi Tea Co., Ltd.	O. S. & Co.	L.	382	...
Chargon Tea Assocn., Ltd.	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	L.	...	176
Chasme Valley Tea Co., Ltd.	Berry & Co.	L.	...	76
Chandra Tea Estate	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	160	...
Chandmaguri Tea Estate	M. D. Tinsid	...	...	76
Chasmevali Tea Estate	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	...	...
Chasmevali Tea Co. (P200), Ltd.	Valleys, Ltd.	...	...	76
Chensai Tea Estate	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	...	300	...
Chowdhury Tea Estates, Ltd.	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	L.	76	...
Chabha Tea Co., Ltd.	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	I & L.	3,975	...
Chandesherry Tea Co., Ltd.	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	...	76
Charens Tea Estate	...	...	...	...
Chavshay Tea Co., Ltd.	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	I.	...	76
Chaschidul Tea & Lands Co., Ltd.	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	I.	5,218	76
Chakrasaig Tea Co., Ltd.	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	493	...
Charamara Tea Estate	W. M. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	200	...
Chaspore Tea Co., Ltd.	Macneil & Co.	I.	...	76
Changpur Tea Co., Ltd.	Berry & Co.	L.	...	76
Chathacheta Tea Estate	A. Chalmers	...	...	76
Dalhousie Tea Estate	B. D. & Co.	I.	267	...
Dalhousie Tea Co., Ltd.	McLeod & Co.	L.	70	...

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or Both.)	A. P. Val.	
			Assam Valley.	Assam Valley.
Danajm Tea Co., Ltd.	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	L.	236	
Dargun & Dhorjini Tea Soci Co., Ltd.	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	L.		
Dargaherra Tea Co., Ltd.	D. B. & Co.	L.	57	
Dargahke Tea Co., Ltd.	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	L.	1208	
Dargun Tea Estate				
De Kalbrie Tea Estate	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	L.	46	
Deochee Merbeer Estate	R. C. Dutt		173	
Deo Tea Co., Ltd.	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	L.	17	
Deo Valley Co., Ltd.	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	L.	275	
Deo Tea Co., Ltd.	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	L.	1158	
Deo Tea Co., Ltd.	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	L.		
Deo Tea Co., Ltd.	B. D. & Co., Ltd.		1173	
Deo & Parbattia Tea Co., Ltd.	G. H. & Co., Ltd.	L.	148	
Deo Tea Co., Ltd.	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	L.	2841	
Deo Tea Co., Ltd.	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	L.	1508	
Deo Tea Co., Ltd.	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	L.	7	
Deo Tea Co., Ltd.	W. M. & Co.	L.	579	
Deo Tea Estate	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	L.	765	
Deo Estate	Tea Estates India Ltd.			
Deo Tea Co., Ltd.	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	L.	192	
Deo Durrang Tea Co., Ltd.	Tea Estates India, Ltd.	L.	86	
Deo Dours Tea Co., Ltd.	J. P. & Co., Ltd.		1006	
Deo Tea Co., Ltd.	Chatterjee & Ganguly & Co.	L.	325	
Deo Tea Estate	Macneil & Co.	L.	479	
Deo Tea Co., Ltd.	Pandit & Co.			

* Incorporated in the Jorehat Tea Co., Ltd.
Is a division of Takkumar Tea Estate.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACREAGE. Brahmaputra-Sing Valley. Valley.
Dilli Tea Estate	... Socy, Naga Hills.	...	...
Dimakhasi Tea Co., Ltd.	... W. M. & Co.	L.	658
Dirai Tea Estate	... Macneil & Co.	L.	100
Dixa Tea Estate	...	...	...
Dolaguri Tea Co., Ltd.	... G. H. & Co.	L.	500
Doloi Tea Co., Ltd.	... J. E. & Co., Ltd.	L. & L.	...
Dooce Tea Co., Ltd.	... D. B. & Co., Ltd.	L. & L.	1,140
Doodputtee Tea Co., Ltd.	... Macneil & Co.	L.	1,140
Doolahat Tea Co., Ltd.	... W. M. & Co.	L.	873
Dooloogram Tea Co., Ltd.	... McLeod & Co.	L. & L.	117 1,185
Doom Dooona Tea Co., Ltd.	... P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	L.	5,640
Doomni Tea Estate	... Tea Estates India Co., Ltd.	L.	...
Doria Tea Co., Ltd.	... S. W. & Co.	L.	1,008
Dayang Tea Co., Ltd.	... O. S. & Co., Ltd.	L.	520
Dayapore Tea Co., Ltd.	... W. G. & Co.	L.	...
Dr. D. W. Briens Tea Co., Ltd.	... B. L. & Co., Ltd.	L.	500
Duckingole Tea Estate	... National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	...
Dufflagaur Tea Co., Ltd.	... W. M. & Co.	L.	600
Dulcheria Tea Co., Ltd.	... D. B. & Co., Ltd.	L.	...
Durgabari Tea Estate	... P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	...	80
Durganagar Tea Estate	...	...	...
Durrang Tea Co., Ltd.	... Kilburn & Co.	L.	570
Eastern Assam Tea Co., Ltd.	... Barry & Co.	L.	3,330
East India Tea Co., Ltd.	... W. M. & Co.	L.	1,552
East India & Ceylon Tea Co., Ltd.	... McLeod & Co.	L.	...
Eastern Cachar Tea Co., Ltd.	... O. S. & Co., Ltd.	L.	1,103
Eastern Hindusthan Tea Co., Ltd.	... Pandit & Co.	...	150
Eastern Tea Corporation, Ltd.	...	...	150

NAME.	Principal Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Empire of India & Ceylon Tea Co., Ltd.	McLeod & Co.	L & L.	5,769	
Essexman Tea Co., Ltd.	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	L.	.....	756
Evergood & Binodini Tea Estates.	J. B. Marshall, Manager.	.....	.....	742
Fackniger Tea Estates	National Agency Co., Ltd.	.....	.....	165
Gangpore Tea Co., Ltd.	A. Y. & Co., Ltd.	L.	.....	570
Gair Alie Tea Co., Ltd.	W. M. & Co.	L.	.....	510
Gangikri Tea & Seed Co., Ltd.	A. Y. & Co., Ltd.	L.	.....	70
Ganga Tea Co., Ltd.	McLeod & Co.	L & L.	.....	565
Gokulpori Tea Estate	G. C. Dutt	.....	.....	100
Gopure Tea Co., Ltd.	W. M. & Co.	L.	.....	112
Goswamipuri Tea Estate	National Agency Co., Ltd.	.....	.....	152
Greenwood Tea Co., Ltd.	McLeod & Co.	L.	.....	1,730
Gour Nitye Tea Co., Ltd. (Baragana).	G. W. & Co.	.....	.....	325
Groh Tea Co., Ltd.	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	L.	.....	1,115
Halen Tea Co., Ltd.	McLeod & Co.	L & L.	.....	1,000
Halsahani Tea Estate	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	L.	.....	.....
*Halmai Tea Estate	(See foot note)	L.	.....	.....
Habnirah Tea Estate	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	L.	.....	191
Hahmramukh Tea Estate	W. M. & Co.	L.	.....	160
Hajjan Parbat Tea Co., Ltd.	Villers, Ltd.	.....	.....	220
Harish Nagar Tea Co., Ltd.	.....	.....	.....	1,500
Harmutty Tea Co., Ltd.	W. M. & Co.	L.	.....	881
Hatijan Tea Seed Syndicate	.....	.....	.....	.....
Hattigor Tea Estate	.....	.....	.....	60
Hattikhira Tea Co., Ltd.	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	L.	.....	2,736
Hautley Tea Estate	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	.....	.....	.....

* Proprietor Amrawati Tea Co., Ltd., Jalpaiguri.
Is a division of the Badulipur Tea Co., Ltd.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Sikkim Valley.
Haveda Tea Estate	P. S. & A. Co., Ld.	I	75	
Hill Tipperah Tea Syndicate, Ld.	Planters Society		.....	12
Hindustan Tea & Fishery, Ld.			.....	.....
Hingrijan Tea Co., Ld.	A. Y. & Co., Ld.	I	545	
Hoograjuli (Assam) Tea Co., Ld.	A. Y. & Co., Ld.	I	495	
Hoolungoorie Tea Co., Ld.	A. Y. & Co., Ld.	I.	1,245	
Haroochorai Tea Estate	W. M. & Co.	I.	.....
Hunwal Tea Co., Ld.	G. H. & Co.	I.	1,514	
Imperial Tea Co., Ld.	McLeod & Co.	I. & L.	2,316	220
Indeswar Tea & Trading Co., Ld.	G. C. Dutt.		.....	8
Indian Home Mission to the Santals Tea Gardens.	Lead, Marshfield & Co.	I.	.....
Indian National Trading & Planting Corporation, Ld.	I. P. Agency Co., Ld.		190	
Indian Tea Corporation, Ld. Julia Tea Estate Mandakata Tea Estate.	S. W. & Co.		260	
Indian Tea Co. or Cachet, Ld.	D. B. & Co., Ld.	I. & L.	.....	1,02
Indian Tea & Commerce, Ld.	Planters Guild.		.....	30
Industrial Development Co., Ld.	Sylhet Tea Syndicate (Committee)		.....	205
Iringmara Tea Co., Ld.	G. H. & Co.	I.	.....	37
Iso Basei Tea Co., Ld.	O. S. & Co., Ld.	I.	.....	97
Itakhooli Tea Co., Ld.	P. S. & A. Co., Ld.	I.	855	
Jagbhar Tea Estate	Ditto		190	
Jaipur Tea Co., Ld.	P. L. & Co., Ld.	I.	1,114	
Jalalnagar Tea Estate	All-India Tea & Trading Co., Ld.		.....
Jalmga Tea Co., Ld.	D. B. & Co., Ld.	I. & L.	.....	770
Jathbari Tea Co., Ld.	G. A. & Co.	I.	834	

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	AGREYOL.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Sarna Valley.
Jangra Valley Tea Co., Ltd.	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	L.	.....	2,534
Jangra Tea Association, Ltd.	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	L.	1,996	
Jangra (Native) Tea Concern	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	L.	.....	352
Jangra (Assam) Tea Co., Ltd.	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	L.	11,184	
Jangra Tea Co., Ltd.	K. B. & Co., Ltd.	L.	.....	575
Jangra Tea Co., Ltd.	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	L.	19,025	
Jangra Tea Co., Ltd.	W. M. & Co.	L.	.....	518
Jangra Tea Estate	W. M. & Co.	L.	.....
Jangra Tea Co., Ltd.	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	L.	.....	361
Jangra Tea Estate	Blair Samry, Ltd.	L.	.....	632
Jangra Tea Co., Ltd.	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	L.	.....	300
Jangra Tea Estate	Macmillan & Co.	L.	.....	1,354
Jangra & Khorel Tea Co., Ltd.	J. S. & Co.	L.	.....	586
Jangra Tea Association, (Amchong)	G. F. White.	...	.....	400
Jangra Devan Hills Produce Co., Ltd.	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	L.	.....	3,265
Jangra Tea Co., Ltd.	Eastern Commers- ial Union	...	.....	375
Jangra Tea Co., Ltd.	G. H. & Co.	L.	.....	100
Jangra Tea Estate	J. C. Banerjee	...	.....
Jangra Tea Estate	.....	...	.....	110
Jangra Tea Estate	Barey & Co.	L.	.....	326
Jangra Tea Estate	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	L.	.....	591
Jangra Tea Co., Ltd.	A. Y. & Co., Ltd.	L.	.....	572
Jangra Valley Tea Co., Ltd.	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	L.	.....	370
Jangra Golaghat Assam Tea Co., Ltd.	S. W. & Co.	L.	.....	1,657
Jangra Tea Co., Ltd.	Mitra & Co.	...	.....

*Includes Noahabur Tea Estate.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	Area Brahmaputra Valley.	Area Sutlej Valley.
Koliabur & Serone Tea Co., Ld.	B. D. & Co., Ld.	I.	1,231	
Kookecheria Tea Co., Ld.	B. D. & Co., Ld.	I. & L.	.....	1,171
Koomsong Tea Co., Ld.	W. M. & Co.	I.	1,000	
Koshogan Tea Seed Syndicate	.....	.....	35	
Koyah Tea Co., Ld.	Macneill & Co.	I.	.....	700
Kuhum Tea Estate	W. M. & Co.	I.	.....
Kunchanpore Tea Co., Ld.	D. B. & Co., Ld.	.....	.....	517
Kuturi Tea Co., (1920), Ld.	Valliers, Ld.	.....	290	
Kyang Tea Seed Estate	S. W. & Co.	.....	.....
Lackatporah Tea Co., Ld.	J. MacMillan & Co.	I.	.....	1,178
Ladoigore Tea Estate	.....	.....	20	
*Lalchand Tea Estate	P. S. & A. Co., Ld.	.....	.....	95,820
Lalkura Tea Co., Ld.	J. MacMillan & Co.	.....	110	
Langboi Tea Estate	.....	.....	75	
Lankashi Tea & Seed Estate	O. S. & Co., Ld.	I.	120	
Latasil Tea Estate	.....	.....	.....
Ledo Tea Co., Ld.	D. B. & Co., Ld.	I.	989	
Lepetkatta Tea Co., Ld.	W. M. & Co.	I.	951	
Letekoojan Tea Estate	O. S. & Co., Ld.	I.	470	
Limbuguri Tea Co., Ld.	P. S. & A. Co., Ld.	I.	500	
Longai Valley Tea Co., Ld.	O. S. & Co., Ld.	I.	.....	1,931
Loebah Tea Co., Ld.	O. S. & Co., Ld.	I.	.....	1,155
Looksan Tea Co., Ld.	O. S. & Co., Ld.	I.	.....	293
†Luckicherra Estate	National Agency Co., Ld.	.....	.....
Lukwah Tea Co., Ld.	B. D. & Co., Ld.	I.	1,251	
Lungla (Sythet) Tea Co., Ld.	O. S. & Co., Ld.	I.	.....	5,000
Luskerpore Tea Co., Ld.	S. W. & Co.	L.	.....	1,011
Luxmi Tea Co., Ld.	Davenport & Co., Ld.	.....	550	

*Lalchand Tea Estate is a division of the Demdi Tea Co., Ld.

†Luckicherra is included in Duckingole Tea Estate.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Mamukhat Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	166	
Mandherpur Tea Estate ...	W. M. & Co. ...	I.	.....	176
Manduting Tea Estate ...	.....	...	125	
Mandua Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....
Manduli Tea Estate ...	Macneill & Co. ...	...	.....
Mandua Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....
Majagram Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Macneill & Co. ...	I.	.....	1,280
Majum (Assam) Tea Co., Ltd. ...	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	I.	2,026	
Mamdi Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co. ...	I.	3,761	
Mangabdi Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co. ...	I.	885	
Mangpur Tea Co., Ltd. ...	G. A. & Co. ...	I.	.....	528
Mantala Tea Co., Ltd. ...	.....	...	.....	350
Mangul Tea Estate ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	208	
Mand Tea & Seed Co., Ltd. ...	H. C. Garbett ...	I.	.....
Mandi Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Kilburn & Co. ...	I.	.....	500
Mandichee Tea Co., Ltd. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I. & L.	.....	680
Mazongah Tea Estate ...	W. M. & Co. ...	I.	.....
Mikla Nuddy Saw Mills Co., Ltd.	.....	...	.....
Melilian Tea Estate ...	L. P. Agency Co., Ltd.	...	.....
Meong Estate ...	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	I. & L.	1,611	
Methoni Tea Estate ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	311	
Methahola Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....
Mertinga Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	...	.....	342
Mizapore Tea Co., Ltd. ...	A. Y. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....
Mittinguri Seed Garden ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	...	65	
Mohund Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co. ...	I.	3,190	
Mohupur Tea Estate ...	.....	...	225	
Mohema, Ltd. ...	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	I.	593	

*Is a division of the Borasali Tea Co., Ltd.

†Mertinga is a division of the Deendi Tea Co., Ltd.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmapu- tra Valley.	Sumat- ra Valley.
Mahamedpur Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....	332
Mokaibari Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Barr & Co., Ltd.	I. & L.	702	
Mokring Tea Co., Ltd. ...	National A. Co., Ltd.	...	480	
Monmoy Tea Estate ...	Bolmer, Lawrence, & Co., Ltd.	I.	480	
Monmohinipur Tea Co., Ltd.	A. W. Figgis & Co., Ltd.	I.	335	
Moolan Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....
Moomincherra Tea Estate	.....	...	.....	240
Moran Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	1,100	
Mornai Tea Estate ...	Evail Marshall & Co.	...	520	
Mothola Co., Ltd. ...	K. P. & Co., Ltd.	I.	455	
Morian Tea Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	78	
Mudulpore Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....	127
Mololjun Tea Estate ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	317	
*Mumucherra Tea Estate ...	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	...	.....	200
Murphidam Tea Co. ...	A. Y. & Co., Ltd.	I.	222	
Naga Hills Tea Co., Ltd. ...	.....	...	550	
Nagongonj Tea Co., Ltd. ...	.....	...	.....
Naharkatiya, Ltd. (Saw Mill)	I. P. A. & Co., Ltd.	...	.....
Nahorabi Tea Estate ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	889	
Nahorjun Tea Co., Ltd. ...	G. H. & Co.	I.	880	
Namburandi Tea Co., Ltd.	S. W. & Co.	I.	773	
Namdang Tea Co., Ltd. ...	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	I.	1,035	
†Narayanpur Tea Estate ...	H. M. Bose, (Manager).	I.	.....
National Tea Co., Ltd. ...	McLeod & Co.	...	500	
Nepaphoo Tea Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	43	
New Assam Valley Tea Co., Ltd.	Macnoll & Co.	I.	375	
New Cinnatollah Tea Co., Ltd.	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	I.	965	

* Is a garden of the Prithumpassa Wards Estate.

† Is a division of Luxmi Tea Co., Ltd.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACREAGE.	
			Brāhmapu- tra Valley.	Surma Valley.
New Darrang Tea Corpora- tion, Ltd.	I. P. A. Co., Ltd.	...	299	
New Jomkhuosi Tea Co., Ltd.	Macdon. & Co.	L.	450	
New Eastern Tea and Trade- ing Co., Ltd.	Tea Estates India, Ltd.	L.	640	
New India Tea Corporation, Ltd.	Tea Estates India, Ltd.	L.	277	
New Samanbagh Tea Co., Ltd.	S. W. & Co.	L.	...	949
New Sylhet Tea Estates, Ltd.	W. M. & Co.	L.	...	1,169
Niphamati Union Tea Co., Ltd.	Martin & Co.	...	...
Nipjar Tea Co., Ltd.	McLeod & Co.	L.	447	
*Noahabari Tea Estate, Ltd.	B. D. & Co.	...	657	
Noanichy Tea Concern	Rajah of Mying- singh.	...	370	
Noanind Tea Co.	...	...	...	369
Noanoy & Assam Tea Co., Ltd.	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	...	...
*Noanmati Tea Estate	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	...
North-Western Cachar Tea Co., Ltd.	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	L.	...	1,478
Norapara Tea Co., Ltd.	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	L.	...	835
Osing Tea Estate	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	...	223	
Oxibhag & Indanugger Tea Estate.	G. C. Dutt	...	...	896
Osing Tea Co., Ltd.	S. W. & Co.	L.	511	
Oxibhag Tea Co., Ltd.	I. P. A. Co., Ltd.	...	125	
Orpinair Tea Estate	P. K. Borahakur.	L.	...	
Pabbari Tea Co., Ltd.	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	L.	2,147	
Pachomoni Tea Seed Syndi- cate.	...	...	56	
Pakandi Tea Estate	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	...	...
Pandari Tea Co., Ltd.	...	...	260	
Pandarry Tea Estate	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	...	413	

*Noahabari Tea Estate now division of the Jorhat Tea Co., Ltd.

AND COMPANY LIMITED are also included in the Darrang Hill Tea Estate.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Sutlej Valley.
Panchmoi Tea Estate ...	A. Y. & Co., Ltd.	I.	350	
Panikhati Tea Estate ...	...	...	.....
Parbutpore Tea Estate ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	520
Pathini Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	L.	.....	1200
Patrakhola Tea Co., Ltd. ...	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	I.	607	1,117
Phukennagor Tea Estate ...	...	...	.....
Phukenbarri Tea Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	I.	184	
Purapbarri Tea Co., Ltd. ...	S. W. & Co.	I.	300	
Purbutguri Tea Seed Garden	...	...	.....
Prithimpassa Wards Estate	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....
Rajabaree Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	...	517	
Rajabaree Tea Estate ...	...	...	550	
*Rajabhetta Tea Estate ...	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	I.	317	
Rajah Ali Tea Estates, Ltd.	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	386	
Rajgarah Tea Co., Ltd. ...	A. Y. & Co., Ltd.	I.	206	
Rajnagar Tea Co., Ltd. ...	S. W. & Co.	I.	.....	815
Rajmai Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	2,300	
Ramani Krishna Tea Estate	...	...	.....	130
Ramsa Hill Tea Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	112	
Rangoloo Tea Estate ...	...	...	30	
Rani Tea Estate ...	...	...	270	
Romai Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	571	
Roopabally Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	...	.....	302
Roopacherra Tea Co., Ltd.	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	670
Rowriah Tea Estate ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	217	
Rukni Tea Co., Ltd. ...	H. M. Girdling ...	L.	170	
Rungajain Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	2,136	

*Withdrawn from the Agreement as from 7th February 1925.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Rangamattee Tea Co., Ltd.	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	714
Rangicherra Tea Estate ...	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	...	.....	350
Rangiting Tea Co.	W. Hobler ...	I.	.....	605
Rapajuli Tea Co., Ltd.	W. M. & Co.	I.	.....	806
Rapai Tea Co., Ltd.	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	1,057	
*Rupshi Tea Estate ...	J. Mackilloen & Co.	...	110	
Ruteina Tea Co., Ltd. ...	McLeod & Co.	I.	.....	1,201
Sabajpur (Jhingla) Tea Estate	Cachar Native Joint Stock Co. (Proprs.), Ltd.	...	(350 (501	
Solasiva Tea Estate ...	.....	...	30	
S. J. Kowal (Assam) Tea Co., Ltd.	McLeod & Co.	I.	.....
S. J. Kowal Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....
Sonah Tea Co., Ltd.	M. M. & Co.	I.	1,389	
Spori Tea Co., Ltd.	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	I.	861	
Scottish Assam Tea Co., Ltd.	W. M. & Co.	I.	1,314	
Scottpore Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Macneill & Co.	I.	.....	1,100
Sonoli Tea Co., Ltd.	W. M. & Co.	I.	521	
Sophamari Bheel Tea Co., Ltd.	W. M. & Co.	I.	.....	2,163
Shakomato Tea Co., Ltd. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	945	
Salsagar Tea Co., Ltd. ...	.....	...	361	
Sibomhari Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Batty & Co.	I.	1,174	
Singhijan Tea Estates ...	S. F. & Co., Ltd.	...	216	
Singlo Tea Co., Ltd.	G. A. & Co.	I.	3,659	
Singphoo Tea Estate ...	Baloma Tea Co. ....	...	60	
Sonabheel (Assam) Tea Co., Ltd.	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	603	
Sonar River Tea Co.	Davenport & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	800
Sonapore Tea Co.	Martin & Co.	I.	350	
†Sonarupa Tea Estate ...	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	546

*Formerly known as Lalkara Tea Estate.

†Sonapour is a Division of Dhamai Tea Co., Ltd.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where Signed (India or London or Brahmaputra both).	ACREAGE, Sassam Valley.
South Cachar Tea Co., Ltd.	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	I.	412
Sreeburi Tea Estate	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	250
Star Tea Estate	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	...	120
Sreekona Tea Estate	...	...	...
Sridharpore Tea Estate	...	...	150
Sribhatta Tea Co., Ltd.	A. W. Figgis & Co.	...	270
Sukanjuri Tea Estate	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	...	100
Sumati Tea Estate	I. P. A. & Co., Ltd.	...	120
Surma Valley Tea Co., Ltd.	S. W. & Co.	L.	1,207
Sylhet Tea Co., Ltd.	Barry & Co.	L.	500
Sylhet Tea & Industry, Ltd.	Tea Traders' Association.	...	310
Taikrong Tea Estate	Tea Estates India, Ltd.	L.	154
Tamulbari Tea Estate	C. K. Agarwalla	L.	320
Tapassia Tea Estate	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	...	...
Tara Tea Co., Ltd.	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	L.	1,200
Tarapore Tea Co., Ltd.	Macneil & Co.	L.	620
*Teekulpar Tea Estate	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	L.	...
Teen Ali Tea Co., Ltd.	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	L.	517
Telajpur Tea Co., Ltd.	McLeod & Co.	L.	150
Telipara Tea Co., Ltd.	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	L.	1,172
Tengrai Tea Co., Ltd.	G. A. & Co.	L.	107
Tezpore Tea Co., Ltd.	S. W. & Co.	L.	866
Thakurbari Tea Estate	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	L.	...
Thamir Tea Co., Ltd.	Macneil & Co.	L.	2,003
Thengalbari Tea Estate, Ma- dhupur and Thengalbari.	W. M. & Co.	L.	1,190
Tilakah Tea Co., Ltd.	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	L.	700
Timon Tea Co., Ltd.	Gifford's Acland & Co.	L.	170

* Incorporated in the Jatinga Valley Tea Co., Ltd.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where Signed (India or London or both).	ACRES.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Sumra Valley.
Bagumra Tea Seed Syndi- cate, Ltd.	McLeod & Co., Ltd.	L.	.....	.....
Bankong Tea Co., Ltd.	A. Y. & Co., Ltd.	L.	.....	822
Barua Tea Co., Ltd.	W. M. & Co.	L.	.....	1,987
Batal Tea Estate	National Agency Co., Ltd.	L.	.....	175
Bidam Tea Co., Ltd.	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	L.	.....	625
Bishnoco Tea Estate	Bury & Co.	L.	.....	307
Bishnuri Tea Estate	.....	.....	.....	36
Bongani Tea Estate	W. M. & Co., Ltd.	L.	.....	346
Bongom Tea Co., Ltd.	W. M. & Co., Ltd.	L.	.....	221
Bopa Tea Estate	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	.....	.....	.....
Broom Tea Co., Ltd.	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	L.	.....	672
Budguri Tea Estate	P. S. Agency Co., Ltd.	.....	.....	185
Caba Tea Co., Ltd.	S. W. & Co.	L.	.....	375
Chakari Tea Estate	National Agency	.....	.....	.....
Chun Tea & Trading Co., Ltd.	.....	.....	.....	200
Upper Assam Tea Co., Ltd.	Macnall & Co., Ltd.	L. & L.	.....	4,208
Western Cachar Co., Ltd.	Macnall & Co., Ltd.	L.	.....	1,199
Western Douars Tea Syndi- cate, Ltd.	.....	.....	.....	209
Woodlands Tea Estate	.....	.....	.....	30
Zolom Tea Co., Ltd.	P. S. & A. Co. Ltd.	L.	.....	563

Indian Tea Association.

SURMA VALLEY BRANCH.

REVISED RULES.

(As from the 30th March 1927.)

1. The Association shall be called the "Surma Valley Branch of the Indian Tea Association."

2. The objects of the Association are generally to watch over and, as far as possible, to protect the interests of the Tea Industry of the Surma Valley, also to keep in touch with Government, the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, and other Associations on matters connected with the Indian Tea Industry.

3. The Association shall consist of Companies, Proprietors, or Concerns occupied in the production of tea in the Surma Valley. Such Companies or Concerns shall ordinarily be represented by the nominee of their Calcutta Agents on the District Committees of each district in which they are interested.

4. Private Proprietors or Concerns, not having Managing Agents, shall be entitled to elect one member only to the Committee of each district in which they own an interest. Such election to be ballotted for among themselves on the basis of one vote for each 100 acres of tea subscribed for the Association. Companies or Concerns wishing to join, need not necessarily be members of the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

(a) The funds of the Branch shall be provided by an annual subscription of two and half-an-annas per acre under tea cultivation.

(b) If it shall be found that any Manager or Managers or Agents have evaded payment on his or their acreage he or they shall be called upon to pay up the arrears for the last three years and shall not be entitled to vote or benefit to any of the privilege of the Association, until that sum be paid in full.

5(a) The Surma Valley shall be divided into the following nine districts:—

Luskurpur, Balisera, Mid-Sylhet, Lungla-Juri-Doloi and North of Surma, Chargola-Longai, Luckipur, Hailakandi, Chutla Bheel, Happy Valley, North Cachar.

(b) In each of the above-named districts, a Committee, to be termed a District Committee, shall be formed; the members of such Committee shall be appointed by the Calcutta Agents interested in the district; each Agency House so interested being empowered to appoint one member.

(c) Members, not having Managing Agents, may ballot for one independent member for each District Committee in whose area they hold an interest in tea as provided for in Rule 3.

(d) An Honorary Chairman and Honorary Secretary shall be elected annually, as soon as possible, after the 1st April but not later than the end of that month, by the members of each District Committee from among their number. These offices may be held by one and the same person.

(e) In the case of a member of a District Committee, or the General Committee being absent on leave, or permanently leaving the District, his Agents in the former case and his District Committee in the latter case shall elect his substitute.

(f) A District Committee may consist of any number of members not less than three and shall meet at least twice annually preferably a fortnight previous to each of the two General Committee meetings.

(g) Any member of a District Committee unavoidably absent from a meeting may give his proxy to any other member of the same District Committee.

(h) At a District Committee meeting three members present in person or two members present in person and one by proxy shall form a quorum.

- (f) When any matter of interest or importance is brought to the notice of the Honorary Chairman of a District Committee, he shall instruct the Honorary Secretary to call a meeting of which fourteen days' notice (but ordinarily be given except in a case of urgency when seven days shall suffice); a report of the proceedings of such meetings shall be sent to the Secretary to the Branch. District Committees shall take action through the Branch Secretary who shall have the matter in question brought before the Chairman of the Branch for orders.
- g A District Committee may discuss and pass a resolution on, or make suggestions in connection with any subject affecting local planting interests either directly or otherwise. Any member may require his District Committee representative to bring up for discussion any subject which may affect his interests. The District Committee may, thereupon, require their representatives on the General Committee to bring the matter before that Committee for the necessary action, if any.
- (k) Each member of a District Committee shall be entitled to one vote for every complete 100 acres of tea, which he represents, and which had paid the annual subscription to the Branch. The Chairman, in case of equal voting to have a casting vote.
- l District Committee members shall, when a meeting is impracticable, state their views, in writing to the Honorary Secretary, who in conjunction with the Chairman, shall draw up a resolution in accordance with the opinion expressed by the majority, and forward same to the Secretary of the General Committee for approval and action, if any.
6. (a) For the conduct of the Association's business, the different District Committees shall as soon as possible, after the 1st April, but not later than the end of that month, elect the representatives they are entitled to

as specified below, who shall form the General Committee of the Surma Valley Branch, which Committee shall at their first meeting thereafter elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

The Chairman need not necessarily be a member of any District Committee.

Luskerpore	District shall elect one member.
Balibera	.. .. two members
Mid-Sylhet	.. .. three ..
Chargola-Longai	.. .. two ..
Hailakandy " .. "
Chutla Bheel " .. "
Luckipur " .. "
Happy Valley	.. .. One member.
North Cachar " .. "

or sixteen members in all, irrespective of the Chairman

- (b) In all matters of whatsoever nature that come up before the General Committee, each member shall have one vote only.
- (c) The Chairman, or his deputy, in cases of equality of votes shall have a second or casting vote.
- (d) In case of a member of the General Committee being absent on leave for more than three months, or permanently leaving the district he shall notify the Branch Secretary of his intention, if possible, at least one month previous to his departure, so that a substitute may be provided for.
- (e) The meetings of the General Committee shall take place at least half-yearly as soon as after 1st January and 1st July, respectively, as possible subject to one month's notice, but the Chairman or his deputy may, if he thinks fit, call a Special Meeting of the Committee to consider any matter of urgency or importance, and shall give seven days' notice of such meetings.
- (f) The meeting of the General Committee shall ordinarily be held at Silchar, except that it shall be optional for

the Sylhet members to claim that each alternate meeting be held at some convenient place in Sylhet to be decided upon by them; but notice of such intention must be given to the Secretary at least one month previous to the date of the meeting which they propose should be held in Sylhet.

(g) Any member, unable to attend a meeting may give his proxy to another member of the General Committee to act for him.

(h) Any member of the General Committee, who is not present in person, or by proxy, at any three consecutive meetings of that Committee, creates a vacancy; and the Secretary of the Branch shall request his District Committee to nominate another representative.

(i) In the event of a Chairman of either the General or District Committee wishing to resign during the term of his office, he shall call a meeting to appoint a substitute giving, if possible, one month's but not less than seven days' notice of such meeting; and shall continue to act until such appointment is made.

(j) Seven members present in person or five in person and two by proxy, shall form a quorum at any meeting of the General Committee.

(k) The General Committee shall appoint and control the paid Secretary whose office shall be an annual one.

7. (a) The Secretary shall ordinarily keep a register of all Proceedings, carry on the clerical work of the Branch and shall collect the subscription due to the Branch. He shall draw up and submit accounts to the General Committee in each half-year, as soon as possible, after the 1st January and the 1st July.

A copy of accounts shall be sent to all members one month before the meeting at which they would come before the General Committee for discussion and sanction; and copies of accounts shall, thereafter be circulated to all members.

b) The Secretary shall also circulate to all members a copy of all communications issued under the authority of the General Committee, and upon receiving particulars, a copy of the Proceedings of all District Committee meetings, also a copy of the Proceedings of all General Committee meetings.

(c) The Secretary shall furnish the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, with a copy of all communications emanating from, and proceedings of General Committee.

8. The Secretary on receiving particulars from the Chairman of the General or District Committees, concerning matters of public interest which require the attention of the Branch (should the Chairman consider a meeting inexpedient) shall circulate copies of the particulars to all members of the General Committee, who shall furnish the Secretary within a fortnight with his written opinion, so that in conjunction with the Chairman of the Branch, he may decide by the general opinion what action should be taken.

9. Upon receiving a requisition signed by ten ordinary members of the Surma Valley Branch of the Association stating the reason therefor, the Secretary shall convene an ordinary General Meeting of members of the Branch at Silchar, on giving one month's notice of such meeting and stating for what reason, and on whose requisition it has been called.

10. The General Committee of the Branch may, at a meeting, provided 75 per cent. of all members of the General Committee are agreeable, add to, or delete from alter or frame any new rule as may be considered necessary.

Indian Tea Association.

Surma Valley Branch.

Statement of Account for the year ending 31st December 1929.

RECEIPTS.	Rs.			EXPENDITURE.		
	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.
To Balance brought forward from 31st December 1928	4,296	By Postage Stamps	...	251
	Telegrams	...	97
	Chairman's bill for Stamps, Telegrams	...	...

Indian Tea Association.

Surma Valley Branch.

Statement of Account for the half-year ending 30th June 1930.

RECEIPTS.	Rs.			EXPENDITURE		
	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.
To Balance brought forward from 31st December 1929	2,065	By Postage Stamps	...	155
	Telegrams	...	22
	Chairman's bill for stamps, telegrams etc.	...	27
	Secretary's pay (including extra remuneration to Mr. Gully)	...	2,700
	Secretary's Office expenditure	...	905
	House allowance to Indian Tea Association clerk	...	30
	Subscription to Chittinagar Chalmers	...	...

SURMA VALLEY BRANCH.

Indian Tea Association.

*List of members of the General Committee elected
for the year 1930-31.*

Members:

MR. A. F. STUART, <i>Chairman</i>			
MR. H. M. JAMES, <i>Vice-chairman</i>	...	...	Mul-Sylhet.
" F. J. HEATHCOTE	...	...
" C. A. WILLIAMS	...	...
" P. S. DOUBELL	...	...	Chargola-Longai.
" T. E. HOLBROOK	...	...
" A. G. MORRIS	...	...	Bahsera.
" R. G. MATHEWSON	...	...
" C. N. W. GRIMSHAW	...	...	Luskopore.
" D. PATERSON	...	...	Hailakandi.
" T. A. EVERARD	...	...
" A. BROWN	...	...	Chatla Bheel.
" H. EMBLEN	...	...
" F. M. ANDERSON	...	...	North Chacka.
" A. B. BEDDOW	...	...	Happy Valley.
" S. A. PEARSON	...	...	Lachhipur.
" H. G. WEBB	...	...

MR. W. E. D. COOPER, M.L.C. *Secretary*

*List of Members of the District Committees elected
for the year 1930-31.*

Lakhipur District Committee.

Names of Members.	Address.	Representative of Messrs.
Mr. S. A. Pearson, (<i>Chairman & Hon. Secy.</i>)	Burtoll	... <i>Macneill & Co.</i>
„ H. G. Webb	... Tilkah	... <i>Octavins Steel & Co., Ltd.</i>
„ C. E. Ewing	... Chingor	... <i>Barlow & Co.</i>

Happy Valley District Committee.

Mr. A. B. Bedlow, (<i>Chairman & Hon. Secy.</i>)	Urnuabund	... <i>Bolton, Laurie & Co.</i>
„ A. Mackenzie	... Cossipore	... <i>Macneill & Co.</i>
„ A. Mackenzie	... Doyapore	... <i>Waller, Gornall & Co.</i>
„ J. S. Mercer	... Arcuttipore	... <i>J. Mackintosh & Co.</i>
„ H. E. Bennett	... Lusingah	... <i>Begg Dunlop & Co., Ltd.</i>
„ W. G. Gooly	... Dooloogram	... <i>McLeod & Co.</i>
„ O. F. Hamilton	... Combergram	... <i>Octavins Steel & Co., Ltd.</i>
The Manager	... Chandighat T.E.	... <i>Dunlop Bros. & Co., Ltd.</i>
The Manager	... Cheerie Valley	... <i>Barry & Co.</i>

Chutla Bheel District Committee.

Mr. A. Brown, (<i>Chairman & Hon. Secy.</i>)	Bagh-O-Bahar	... <i>Gra, Henderson & Co., Ltd.</i>
„ A. P. Archibald	... Derby	... <i>Octavins Steel & Co., Ltd.</i>
„ H. Embley	... Poloi	... <i>Jardine Skinner & Co.</i>
„ A. F. Bendall	... Boro-Jalingah	... <i>James Finlay & Co., Ltd.</i>
„ C. W. Slocock	... Rosekandi	... <i>Dunata Bros. & Co., Ltd.</i>
„ G. G. Hills	... Kuttal	... <i>McLeod & Co.</i>
„ Geo. Gray	... Chincorie	... <i>Villiers, Ltd.</i>
„ W. B. R. McWha	... Bhubandhar	... <i>Macneill & Co.</i>
„ H. M. Girling	... Rukni	... <i>Rukni Tea Co., Ltd.</i>
„ J. D. Jowitt	... Monierkhal	... <i>Darropet & Co., Ltd.</i>

Hailakandi District Committee.

Names of Members.	Address.	Representative of Messrs.
Mr. D. Paterson, (<i>Chairman & Hon. Secy.</i>)	Aenakhall ...	<i>Jardine Skinner & Co.</i>
.. T. A. Everard ...	Kunchunpore ...	<i>Duncan Bros. & Co., Ltd.</i>
.. R. H. Hossack ...	Koyah ...	<i>Macneill & Co.</i>
.. J. C. Henderson ...	Roopacherra ...	<i>Begg Dunlop & Co., Ltd.</i>
.. B. Gupta ...	Vernerpur ...	<i>Cachar Native Joint Stock Co., Ltd.</i>
.. C. J. Shorey ...	Kalacherra ...	<i>Octavius Steel & Co., Ltd.</i>
.. J. Murray ...	Manipore ...	<i>Gillanders, Arbuthnot & Co.</i>

North Cachar District Committee.

Mr. F. M. Anderson, (<i>Chairman & Hon. Secy.</i>)	Hattieherra ...	<i>Macneill & Co.</i>
.. H. Blake ...	Ballacherra ...	<i>Jardine Skinner & Co.</i>
.. M. T. Beatts ...	Craigpark ...	<i>Bayer & Co.</i>
.. V. Knott ...	Bierampore ...	<i>Duncan Bros. & Co., Ltd.</i>
.. R. B. Langley ...	Kallineherra ...	<i>Octavius Steel & Co., Ltd.</i>
.. C. W. Morley ...	Jettinga Valley ...	<i>Begg Dunlop & Co., Ltd.</i>

Chargola-Longai District Committee.

Mr. P. S. Doubell, (<i>Chairman & Hon. Secy.</i>)	Sephinjuvi ...	<i>Williamson Major & Co.</i>
.. A. Cape ...	Longai ...	<i>Octavius Steel & Co., Ltd.</i>
.. T. E. Holbrook ...	Dullabelherra ...	<i>Duncan Bros. & Co., Ltd.</i>
.. H. A. Wray ...	Chargola ...	<i>James Finlay & Co., Ltd.</i>
.. J. B. Marshall ...	Eraligool ...	<i>Private gardens.</i>

Mid-Sylhet District Committee.

Names of Members	Address	Representative of Messrs
Mr. F. J. Heathcote, (<i>Chairman & Hon. Secy.</i>)	Dhamai	... <i>James Finlay & Co., Ltd.</i>
„ H. M. James	Shumshernugger	... <i>Octavius Steel & Co., Ltd.</i>
„ C. A. Williams	Ruthna	... <i>McLeod & Co.</i>
„ F. W. Wilson	Phooltullah	... <i>Williamson Magor & Co.</i>
„ H. N. McKenzie	Patrokola	... <i>Duncan Bros. & Co., Ltd.</i>
„ B. Chadburn	New Semanbagh	... <i>Shaw Wallace & Co.</i>
„ E. H. Hazel	Ghazipore	... <i>Andrew Yule & Co.</i>
„ P. Woodland	Lackatoorah	... <i>J. Mackilloan & Co.</i>
The Manager	Malnicherra	... <i>Barry & Co.</i>

Balisera District Committee.

Mr. R. J. Mathewson, (<i>Chairman & Hon. Secy.</i>)	Rajghat	... <i>James Finlay & Co., Ltd.</i>
„ A. G. Morris	Mazdehee	... <i>Planters' Stores & Agencies Co., Ltd.</i>
„ Wm. Murray	Sathgao	... <i>Octavius Steel & Co., Ltd.</i>
„ J. A. Wotherspoon	Mirzapore	... <i>Andrew Yule & Co.</i>
„ E. Ray	Maulvie	... <i>Kithorn & Co.</i>
„ D. Tulloch	Rasidpur	... <i>P. R. Buchanan & Co.</i>

Luskerpore District Committee.

Mr. C. N. W. Grimshaw, (<i>Chairman & Hon. Secy.</i>)	Surma	... <i>McLeod & Co.</i>
„ A. Cleland	Chundeccheria	... <i>Octavius Steel & Co., Ltd.</i>
„ G. E. Bates	Teliapara	... <i>Duncan Bros. & Co., Ltd.</i>
„ E. G. Tye	Chandpore	... <i>Barry & Co.</i>
„ E. J. Lees	Deundi	... <i>Planters' Stores & Agencies Co., Ltd.</i>
„ S. Parrott	Luskerpore	... <i>Shaw Wallace & Co.</i>
„ D. Tulloch	Rasidpur	... <i>James Finlay & Co., Ltd.</i>

**Representatives of the Surma Valley Branch, Indian
Tea Association, Assam Legislative Council.**

Mr. W. E. D. Cooper, M.L.C.
„ F. J. Heathcote, M.L.C.

Assam Labour Board.

Mr. S. A. Pearson.
„ H. Emblen.
„ F. J. Heathcote, M.L.C.

Indian Tea Cess Committee.

Mr. F. J. Heathcote, M.L.C.
„ S. A. Pearson,

The Assam Road Board and Tea Rates Road Fund Board.

Mr. W. E. D. Cooper, M.L.C.

Assam-Bengal Railway Local Advisory Committee.

Mr. D. Paterson.

*List of Proprietors, Members of the Surma Valley Branch,
Indian Tea Association, on the 30th June 1959.*

Calcutta Agents.	NAMES OF GARDENS OR COMPANY.	Area under tea cultivation.
		Acre.
Messrs. James Finlay & Co., Ltd.	<i>The Amalgamated Tea Estates Co., :—</i>	
	Morapore Division ...	370
	<i>The Anglo-American Direct Tea-Trading Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Borojalingah & Allenpore Div.	750½
	<i>The Consolidated Tea & Lands Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Lulleecherra Divn. ... 1,790	
	Jailhong „ ... 973	
	Lallakhal „ ... 320	
	Goombira „ ... 1,445½	
	Baitakhal „ ... 525½	
	Sagurnal „ ... 680½	
	Holicherra „ ... 538	
	Deanston „ ... 2,452½	
	Rajghat „ ... 2,394½	
	Balisera „ ... 1,507	
	Phulecherra „ ... 1,068½	
	Amrail „ ... 1,974	
	Jagecherra „ ... 936½	
		16,605½
	<i>The Baraora (Sylhet) Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Baraora Divn. ... 1,459½	
	Rasidpore „ ... 1,456	
	Daragaon „ ... 1,213	
		4,128½
	<i>The Chargola Tea Association, Ltd. :—</i>	
	Chargola Divn ... 1,484	
	Hingajea „ ... 694½	
	Singlacherra „ ... 993½	
	Maguracherra „ ... 599½	
		3,771½
	Carried over ...	25,625½

Calcutta Agents.	NAMES OF GARDENS OR COMPANY.	Area under tea cultivation.
		Aeres.
	Brought forward ...	25,625 $\frac{1}{4}$
Messrs. James Finlay & Co., Ltd.	<i>The Dhamai Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Dhamai Divn. ... 1,100	
	Kapnapahar „ ... 612	
	Sonarupa „ ... 645	2,357
	<i>The Noyapara Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Noyapara Divn. ...	835
	<i>The Doloi Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Doloi Divn. ...	600
Messrs. Jardine Skinner & Co.	<i>Bengal United Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Aenakhall Divn. ... 1,424	
	Singalla „ ... 754	
	Lallamookh „ ... 868	
	Lallacherra „ ... 661	
	Ruttonpore „ ... 693	4,400
	<i>Cachar & Doorga Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Sileoorie Divn. ... 1,493	
	Poloi „ ... 644	2,137
	<i>Central Cachar Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Burnie Braes Divn. ... 821	
	Serispore „ ... 599	1,420
	<i>Ballacherra Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	886
	<i>Chaudypore Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	784
	<i>Kallinuggar & Khareel Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	603
	Carried over ...	39,647 $\frac{1}{4}$

Calcutta Agents.	NAMES OF GARDENS OR COMPANY.	Area under tea cultivation.
		Acres.
	Brought forward ...	39,647
Messrs. Shaw Wallace & Co	Luskerpore Tea Co., Ltd. ...	1,915
	New Samanbagh Tea Co., Ltd. ...	964
	Rajnagar Tea Co., Ltd. ...	895
	<i>Sarda Valley Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Silloah Divn. ... 729½	
	Rajkie „ ... 760	1,489½
Messrs. Macneill & Co	<i>Tarapur Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Labac Divn. } ...	5,732
	Dewan „ }	
	Buttol „ }	
	<i>Scottpore Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Scottpore } ...	1,362
	Pollarbund }	
	Narainpore }	
	<i>Doodputlee Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Hatieherra } ...	1,440
	Doodputlee }	
	<i>Coxapore Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	644
	<i>Western Cachar Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Jelalpore Divn. ...	978
	<i>Majagram Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Majagram Divn. ... 474	
	Subong „ ... 785	1,259
	<i>Koyah Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	742
	<i>Bhubanbhar Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	735
	<i>Kolline Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	1,310
	<i>Dikhoosh Tea Estate ...</i>	508
	Carried over ...	58,721½

Calcutta Agents.	NAMES OF GARDENING COMPANY	Area under tea cultivation.
		Aeres.
	Brought forward ...	55,721½
Messrs. Barry & Co.	<i>Cheric Valley Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ...	588
	<i>Craigpach Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ...	401
	<i>Chandpore Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Chandpore Divn. ...	1,406
	Parkul	480
		1,886
	<i>Sylhet Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ...	678
Messrs. Duncan Bros. & Co., Ltd.	<i>Daloo Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ...	1,594
	<i>Jaligar Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ...	730½
	<i>North-Western Cachar Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Kurkoorie Divn. ...	935
	Bierampore	1,001
		1,936
	<i>Chandighat Tea Estate.</i> ...	768
	<i>Amo Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Amo Divn. ...	881
	Nalua	650
		1,531
	<i>Teliapara Tea Estate</i> ...	766
	<i>Satshorne</i>	397
	<i>Allynuggar Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Allynuggar Divn. ...	1,740½
	Chatlapore ...	1,139½
		2,880½
	<i>Patrokola Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Patrokola Divn. ...	1,113
	Kumali	1,020
	Madabpore	765
	Champarai	933
	Rampore & Burkhola	861
		4,692
	Carried over ...	77,569½

Calcutta Agents.	NAMES OF GARDENS OR COMPANY.	Area under tea cultivation. Acres.
	Brought forward ...	77,569½
Messrs. Duncan Bros. & Co., Ltd.	<i>India Tea Co. of Cachar, Ltd. :-</i>	
	Rosekandy ...	1,228½
	<i>Kukicherra Tea Co., Ltd. :-</i>	
	Kukicherra Divn. ... 447	
	Dholai „ ... 720½	1,167½
	<i>New Kuchunpara Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	595
	<i>Dumacherra Tea Estate ...</i>	576
	<i>Cleveland Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	518½
	<i>Borokhai Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	717½
	<i>East India & Ceylon Tea Co., Ltd.</i>	
	Dullabeherra Divn. } ...	2,244½
	Mookhamecherra „ }	
Messrs. Balmer Lawrie & Co.	<i>British Indian Tea Co., Ltd. :-</i>	
	Urrunabund Divn. ...	519
Messrs. Begg, Dunlop & Co., Ltd.	<i>Jettinga Valley Tea Co., Ltd. :-</i>	
	Jettinga Divn. 129	
	Koomber „ 1,200	
	Larsingah „ 654	2,283
	<i>Rompacherra Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	594
	<i>South Cachar Tea Co., Ltd. :-</i>	
	Jaffirbund ...	384
	Carried over ...	88,301½

Calcutta Agents.	NAMES OF GARDENS OR COMPANY.	Area under tea cultivation.
		Acres.
	Brought forward ...	88,301½
Messrs. Walker, Goward & Co.	<i>Dogapure Tea Estate</i> ...	431
Messrs. Melood & Co.	<i>Imperial Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Kuttal Divn. 613	
	Surma „ 1,124	
		1,737
	<i>Rutema Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Ruthna Divn. 560	
	Rema „ 655	
		1,215
	<i>Dooloogram Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Dooloogram Divn. 474½	
	Pathchehra „ 683	
		1,157½
Messrs. Williamson Mager & Co.	<i>New Sylhet Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Phooltullah ...	1,156
	<i>Sephinjuri Bheel Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Sephinjuri Divn. } ...	2,070½
	Tilbhoom „ }	
Messrs. Gillanders, Arbuthnot & Co.	<i>Maipore Tea Estate</i> ...	145
Messrs. Villiers, Ltd.	<i>Chincoorie Tea Estate</i> ...	380
Messrs. J. Mackillochan & Co.	<i>Arentipore Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ...	861
	<i>Lachhatarra Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ...	1,226
Messrs. Octavius Steel & Co., Ltd.	<i>Alyne-Pathemara Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Alyne Divn. ... 321	
	Pathemara „ ... 520	
		841
	Carried over ...	99,524

Calcutta Agents.	NAMES OF GARDENS OR COMPANY.	Area under tea cultivation.
		Acres.
Messrs. Octavius Steel & Co., Ltd.	Brought forward ...	99,52
	<i>Longai Valley Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Chandkhira Divn. ...	954
	Longai & Adam Tila Divn. ...	1,094
		2,048
	<i>Chumleecherra Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	625
	<i>Derby Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	1,155
	<i>Eastern Cachar Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	1,217
	<i>Endogram Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	721
	<i>Hattikhira Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Hattikhira } ...	2,355
	Solgai }	
	<i>Budderpore Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	420
	<i>Kaliti Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	405
	<i>Kalacherra Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	405
	<i>Loobacherra Tea Estate ...</i>	465
	<i>Kallinecherra Tea Estate ...</i>	712
	<i>Lungla Sylhet Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Lungla Divn. ...	899
	Shumshernuggar „ ...	1,420
	Kannyhatti „ ...	1,250
	Etah & Burrumsal „ ...	750
	Karimpore „ ...	978
	Soonecherra „ ...	522
		5,819
	<i>Pathini Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Pathini } ...	1,325
	Champabari }	
	Piplagool }	
	<i>Sathgao Tea Estate ...</i>	808
	<i>Tilakah Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	794
	<i>Isa Bheel Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	1,000
	Carried over ...	120,456

Calcutta Agents.	NAMES OF GARDENS OR COMPANY.	Area under tea cultivation.
	Brought forward ...	Acres. 120,456
Planters's Stores & Agency Co., Ltd.	<i>Deundi Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i> Deundi Division ... 1,373 Laleband „ ... 900 $\frac{3}{4}$ Mertinga „ ... 458 Luayuni „ ... 352	3,083 $\frac{3}{4}$
	<i>Mazdehee Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ... 600 Roopabally T. E. ... 160	
Messrs. Martin & Co.	<i>Bidyanagar Tea Estate</i> ... 846	
Messrs. Kilburn & Co.	<i>Montrie Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ... 622	
Messrs. Geo. Henderson & Co., Ltd.	<i>Iriagumra Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i> Bagh-O-Bahar T. E. ... 398	
Messrs. Davenport & Co., Ltd.	<i>Sagai River Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i> Monierkhal T. E. ... 542	
Messrs. Andrew Yule & Co., Ltd.	<i>Mirzapore Tea Estate</i> ... 551 <i>Gharipore Tea Estate</i> ... 570	
Messrs. Barlow & Co.	<i>Chingpor Tea Estates</i> ... 750 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Messrs. Crozier's Agency Ltd.	<i>Amtangate Tea Estate</i> ... 92 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Private Gardens.	<i>Ricki Tea Estate</i> ... 460 $\frac{1}{2}$ <i>Pachatpore Tea Estate</i> ... 500 <i>Bhubrighat Tea Estate</i> ... 677 $\frac{3}{4}$ <i>Gaddi Apur Tea Estate</i> ... 600 <i>Fralinod & Binodini Tea Estate</i> ... 688 $\frac{1}{2}$ <i>Bundokmura Tea Estate</i> ... 400 <i>Appin Tea Estate</i> ... 212	
	<i>Cachar Native Joint Stock Co., Ltd. :—</i> Vernerpore Divn. ... 276 Sabazpore „ ... 280 Dwarbund „ ... 446 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,002 $\frac{1}{2}$
	<i>Cullacherra Tea Estate</i> ... 280 <i>Sribari Tea Estate</i> ... 291	
	GRAND TOTAL ...	133,732 $\frac{1}{2}$

